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THE TIMES

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The outstanding political memoir of the year

'I can't recall a single thing Hague has ever said or done that is of interest'

George Walden's poison pen
pages 16, 17



15 pages of sport

Arsenal take up the running

United and Chelsea falter in title race

pages 25, 27, 29

TOMORROW: FANTASY FORMULA ONE



- Bombs are blamed on far Right
- Jews fear they may be next target

Police say racists will strike again

BY STEWART TENDLER,
RICHARD FORD
AND JOANNA BALE

POLICE fear the neo-Nazi racists who planted nail bombs in Brixton and Brick Lane in London will strike again in other cities, and possibly against Jewish targets.

As Scotland Yard drafted extra detectives into the anti-terrorist branch yesterday and stepped up the hunt for the bombers, Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, said there was a constant danger until the "extremely evil, unpleasant" criminals and terrorists were caught.

The hunt for the bombers is Scotland Yard's top priority. Senior officers are well aware that their success will be closely monitored by ethnic communities in the wake of the Stephen Lawrence inquiry.

Sir Paul Condon, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, yesterday condemned the attack in Brick Lane on Saturday evening as "an appalling outrage" and an attack on "innocent people in innocent communities". The police now had no doubt that the two attacks were racist. Sir Paul said: "We feared the Brixton bomb would be repeated and, tragically, it has been. We have had very serious fears there will be a continuing series of vicious attacks and we cannot rule out these attacks might be taken outside London."

As Sir Paul spoke, Yard officers were briefing other forces. A national meeting of chief constables on Wednesday will be told the latest developments in the investigations.

Outside London, there are potential targets in Slough, Luton, Birmingham, Leicester, Manchester, Bradford, Bristol, Nottingham, Leeds, the Lancashire mill towns and Glasgow. The Yard also had talks in the last week with senior officials of the Jewish community. Michael Whine, from the British Board of Jewish Deputies, said yesterday that it was logical to think that Jews could be the next target.

In Saturday evening's at-

police station. It was closed. He decided not to move the car and walked to a former police station in Leyton Street, which is now used as offices.

He tried to telephone police but as he did so, at 17.57, the bomb exploded. Six-inch nails were hurled 40 yards down the street, smashing shop windows. Six Asian people were injured slightly. An anti-terrorist officer said yesterday that putting the bomb in the car had not reduced the power of the blast. The greater energy built up probably threw the nails further down the street.

The bombing came at the end of a week in which a number of ethnic community groups received warnings, purporting to come from extremist groups, threatening that Brick Lane and other areas were to be attacked. Police patrols were increased, but Sir Paul said the network of streets in Spitalfields was difficult to monitor.

Two hours after the blast, a caller claimed that Combat 18, the most violent of the right-wing groups, had planted the bomb. The call was made in a terse 999 call from a telephone box in New Malden, south-west London.

Police say there has been an increase in threats from extremist groups since the report on the Stephen Lawrence case in February. The last week has also seen anniversaries of Hitler's birthday, St George's Day and the attack on Stephen.

The Southall Monitoring Project, in West London, said yesterday that it had received a handwritten letter from Combat 18 two days after the Brixton bomb, saying that there would be other attacks. The letter, which had a Hampshire postmark, gave warning of further attacks and named Southall, Slough, Tower Hamlets and Tottenham in London, Bradford and Dublin. The areas all have high concentrations of Indians, Pakistanis, Bangladeshis and black people.

It was found by a white man in his 30s in Hanbury Street, which is lined with shops and restaurants. He picked up the bag at about 17.37, walked round to Brick Lane and put it in the boot of his car. He looked at the contents and then closed the boot. According to police, he then became worried at what he might have found. He crossed the road to a small, part-time



"There was a terribly loud bang and I saw this red car jump four feet into the air as the bomb exploded." — victim describes the horror of Saturday's bombing in Brick Lane.

■ Brick Lane has long been a violent fault line between refugee immigrants and a hostile indigenous population. The first of the waves of immigrants were Huguenots fleeing from France after Louis XIV made Protestantism illegal in 1685. Jews escaping the pogroms of Russia and Poland arrived between 1880 and 1905.

William Rose-Mogg, 20
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tack, a nail bomb hidden inside a sports bag was left on the pavement in Hanbury Street, off Brick Lane, the centre of the biggest expatriate Bangladeshi community in the world. Police said the bomb appeared to be identical in make-up to the Brixton device.

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Land of his future: a refugee boy leads a column of ethnic Albanians who landed at Leeds from Skopje yesterday. The first batch, mainly women and children, were happy to leave Macedonian camps but worried about the families they left behind

Bewildered refugees find their haven in Britain

By PAUL WILKINSON AT LEEDS BRADFORD AIRPORT AND STEPHEN FARREL IN SKOPJE

A SMALL boy stepped hesitantly off a set of aircraft steps yesterday to become the first Kosovan from the Balkan refugee camps to arrive on British soil.

The unfamiliar airport on the edge of Leeds and the ranks of waiting pressmen were all a little too much for Alben Maksuti, 4, and he needed a guiding hand from a member of the ground staff to steer him towards an airport bus and a future which nobody can yet predict.

Behind him came his mother, followed by a straggling column of bewildered refugees from the Macedonian camp at Stenkovici.

One was Avni Gossali, 27, who fled with his wife Anita, 25, and their baby daughter Dielleza two months old. He was relieved to be in Britain but concerned for the family he had left behind. "We are very grateful for everything this country has done," he said. Even in the camp, the British were sensitive and helpful.

The chemistry student from Pristina told how his family was given two minutes to leave their home by Serb police threatening them with knives, and said that he was allowed to escape only because of his daughter.

"I held the baby in my arms. Without the baby it would have been very difficult if not impossible to be allowed to cross the border. Because we had a baby we were lucky. Again we are very grateful to the baby for saving our lives."

Of the 161 on the three-hour flight from Skopje, 70 were

children, eight of them aged under two. One, a schoolboy suffering from multiple sclerosis, was taken from the aircraft in his wheelchair aboard a specially adapted hoist.

Most of the rest were women. Such was the confused state of events that officials in Leeds had no exact picture of who was aboard the Tupolev 154 jet until it had touched down.

The refugees' long day began when they boarded buses at the giant Brazde and Stenkovici camps after a last-minute medical check from doctors wearing masks. They climbed aboard four vehicles amid smiles, waves and tears and were driven to the airport, arriving at 10am and loading bags, suitcases and bin liners onto waiting trolleys.

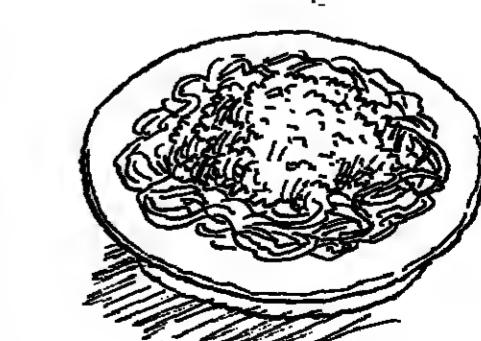
The mood on board the bus was decidedly mixed, some families delighted to be leaving with everyone on board, others distraught at leaving behind sisters, cousins and friends. One boy, Visar, clutched a toy rabbit named Lepurosh, the Albanian for Bunny, as he trotted happily into the airport.

By contrast Fetherje Shala, 31, and her two sisters-in-law, Tebare and Behare, were reduced to tears as they were forced to leave behind Fetherje's sister Adlige. Unlike them, her name had not made it onto the reserve list.

They are here in England, but in their heads they are still in Kosovo," said Julia Purcell, Continued on page 10, col 3

War reports, pages 8, 9
Peter Riddell, page 20
Letters, page 21

Pasta hasta havt it.



www.TABASCO.com

Dashing Clinton fumbles America's nuclear football

Ben Macintyre
in Washington
on the day the
President forgot
Armageddon

meeting had ended 45 minutes ahead of schedule, and "rather than wait for everyone to gather, he just took off".

The black anachore case has

been known as the "football"

and passed with care from one

president to the next since Eisenhower's day.

The device, containing a telephone, two pull-up antennae and codes to identify the caller, would give the President a range of options in responding to a nuclear alert.

The President also carries a card containing identification codes to launch a nuclear strike.

Mr Clinton is not the first

president to fumble the football. In 1975 Gerald Ford arrived at an economic summit in Paris and discovered, with horror, that it had been left in a luggage compartment on Air Force One. "It was one of those things: Didn't you bring the football? No, I thought you had the football," Ron Nessen, the embarrassed White House press secretary, explained.

Jimmy Carter left the codecard in his suit when it was sent to the dry-cleaners, and Ronald Reagan was separated from it when shot by John Hinckley in 1981. Later it was discovered that the FBI had seized it as evidence.

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Mr Clinton is not the first

Meldrew is resurrected

BBC Television is resurrecting *One Foot in the Grave* after recent new sitcoms proved disappointing. *One Foot in the Grave*, starring Richard Wilson as Victor Meldrew, attracted audiences of 16 million and repeats have been achieving 10 million viewers. The new series was announced yesterday at the Montreux Television Festival.

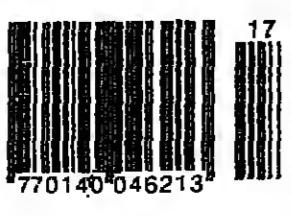
Mark Goldberg, owner of Crystal Palace football club, has lost more than £7 million in business ventures in addition to the £22 million he invested in the Nationwide First Division club.

■ Greg Dyke's financial contributions to the Labour Party disqualify him from being a serious candidate for the job of Director-General of the BBC. Paul Fox, a former Controller of BBC1 and Managing Director of BBC Television, argues in a letter to the Editor today.

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MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

Ming leads way as LibDems bang their drum

THREE-BUTTON blue blazer, suede slippers. Saturday shirt, silk tie ... and a certain bearing. These are the attire of a parliamentary prince in his patch.

Not that Menzies Campbell lords it. In the way that an educated Scot of a certain class can, the Liberal Democrat MP for North East Fife succeeds effortlessly in being of the people, for the people and above the people, all at the same time. And in prospectus file, the combination of looking like a Tory and not being one is irresistible.

It would be inappropriate for Ming (as Scots pronounce the abbreviated Menzies) to act as though he were anybody special; but everyone around him will. The yellow banner they've draped across the shopfront of his HQ in Cupar says "Menzies Campbell QC, CBE ROM".

His party's Leader is shortly to retire, and there have been discreet murmurs that, if pressed — if friends are determined, his name should go forward — well ... Ming would not wish to shirk. But that's for another day. Today the campaign is for the local LibDem candidate in the Scottish Parliamentary elections, Iain Smith.

And nobody marshals a campaign better than Ming. We gather in his cramped office. The splendid Elspeth ("Mrs Campbell" has never sounded right) upbraids *The Times*: "You are wicked to seek us out like this." Her husband explains the purpose of a Liberal Democrat walkabout: "Little talking. Pace. Don't tarry. We want people to say, 'Lord — the ruddy street's full of Liberal Democrats'. Smile, big handshake; introduce Iain; move on. If anyone seems unwilling — no argument, polite smile and move on. Now, big smiles everybody; cheerful, happy ... and we're off!"

He does it brilliantly. "Keep up! Cross the road ... now." Small boys on bikes decide we are a cavalcade, and join. Ladies with sticks

Leadership fight, page 12

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مكتبة الأصل

Woody and Soon-Yi show off their mystery child

Neurotic film star's lack of parenting skills put to test, writes James Bone

WOODY Allen and his young bride, Soon-Yi Previn, played the proud parents at the weekend when they paraded their new baby girl up New York's fashionable Madison Avenue in a pram.

The neurotic actor, who was once reprimanded by a judge for lacking "any parenting skills", told a pursuing photographer: "Yes, it's our baby."

The controversial couple, who have a 35-year age difference, said they had named the child Bechet Dumaine Allen — thought to be a tribute to Sidney Bechet, the late, great jazz clarinetist, and Jean Dousmanian, the director's long-time confidant and producer.

Mr Allen, 63, refused to reveal how old the infant was beyond saying she was "a few months". The child appeared to have Asian features, like her Korean-born mother, but Soon-Yi Previn, 28, has not looked pregnant in recent public appearances and there was speculation that the baby, like her mother, was adopted.



Bechet, left, product of Woody Allen's new relationship and earlier, during his marriage to Mia Farrow



Mia Farrow began dating Mr Allen in 1980.

One of seven children of the Australian film director John Farrow and the Irish actress Maureen O'Sullivan, Ms Farrow has herself been described by Mr Allen as a "thrill mon". She now has a total of ten adopted children and four biological offspring.

During their 13-year relationship, Ms Farrow and Mr Allen adopted a son, Moses, and a daughter, Dylan, and had a natural son named Satchel.

Although he has known Soon-Yi since she was eight, Mr Allen insists that he never played the father-figure to his future bride because he and Ms Farrow never married and always lived apart on opposite sides of Central Park.

The discovery of the affair so shocked Ms Farrow that she launched a bitter battle for custody of Dylan, Moses and Satchel, and publicly accused Mr Allen of molesting their adopted daughter, then aged seven.

Although the director was never prosecuted for child abuse, he was barred from seeing his children without a monitor in the room and is now reportedly estranged from all three.

Mr Allen and Soon-Yi eloped to Venice, where they were married in a ceremony in the town hall. In what was seen as an effort to restore his reputation, Mr Allen, who plays clarinet when he is not writing, directing or acting in his films, allowed Barbara Kopple, the Oscar-winning



Speculation is rife that the baby paraded by Woody Allen and Soon-Yi is adopted

DJ suspended over cocaine allegations

By MICHAEL PATERSON



JOHNNIE WALKER, the Radio 2 DJ, has been suspended from his job after allegations that he took cocaine and offered to supply prostitutes.

The 55-year-old, who hosts the weekday drivetime show and a Saturday afternoon show, is alleged to have snorted cocaine in a hotel in London and arranged prostitutes for undercover reporters from the *News of the World*.

It is claimed that he was trapped on a hidden video camera snorting cocaine through a rolled-up bank note and is facing a possible police investigation.

A BBC spokesman said yesterday: "Johnnie Walker has been suspended from his Radio 2 show pending a full BBC investigation to be led by Jeremy Abramsky, the BBC's director of radio."

Walker, who was born Peter Dingley and grew up in Solihull, was one of the early DJs on Radio 1, which he joined from the pirate station Radio Caroline. But he has had a stormy relationship with the Corporation.

He left the station in 1976 after seven years because of a disagreement over what records should be played. This followed an outburst on air when

he described the Bay City Rollers, then Britain's most popular group, as playing "musical garbage".

After a short-lived spell at a radio station in San Francisco, he returned to Britain and had a year unemployed before starting back in local radio. He returned to Radio 1 in 1987.

The twice-divorced father-of-two, one of many DJs to have been dubbed the "housewives' favourite", was recruited by Radio 2 in recent years because it was eager to appeal to a younger audience.

A spokesman for the Metropolitan Police said: "If any-

thing of this sort is brought to our attention we will investigate accordingly. We will look at the evidence if it's appropriate."

Walker became a second-hand car salesman in Birmingham and began to moonlight as a DJ in local venues.

He soon entered the world of pirate radio stations, with jobs on Radio England and more famously Radio Caroline, which broadcast round-the-clock from a ship off the coast of Essex and became outlawed under the Marine Offences Bill on August 14, 1967.

During his first spell with Radio 1 he established a reputation as a DJ for whom the records he played were more important than the chat in between and he championed new names like Steve Harley, Lou Reed, Fleetwood Mac and the Eagles.

His outspoken views and insistence that he should play album tracks and not just records on the "playlist" led him to resign from the BBC in 1976. He headed for the United States and joined local radio station K-San. He returned to England in the early 1980s and completed stints at local radio stations Radio West and Wiltshire Radio. In April 1998, he returned to the BBC, this time joining Radio 2.



Gardener Sally Moon tends the £10,000 orchid grown by McBean's of East Sussex

Goose guard put on alert to protect prize red orchid

By HELEN JOHNSTONE

A RED ORCHID is being guarded around the clock by security guards, dogs and a gaggle of geese.

The moth orchid (*Noveltia phalaenopsis*), said to be the finest example of its colour grown in the world, is estimated to be worth more than £10,000. Orchids usually sell for no more than £20 each.

McBean's Orchids are so worried that the flower could be stolen they have posted territorial geese (along with other security) around the 120-year-old nursery. The geese would flap and cackle loudly if anyone went near the greenhouse where it is being kept.

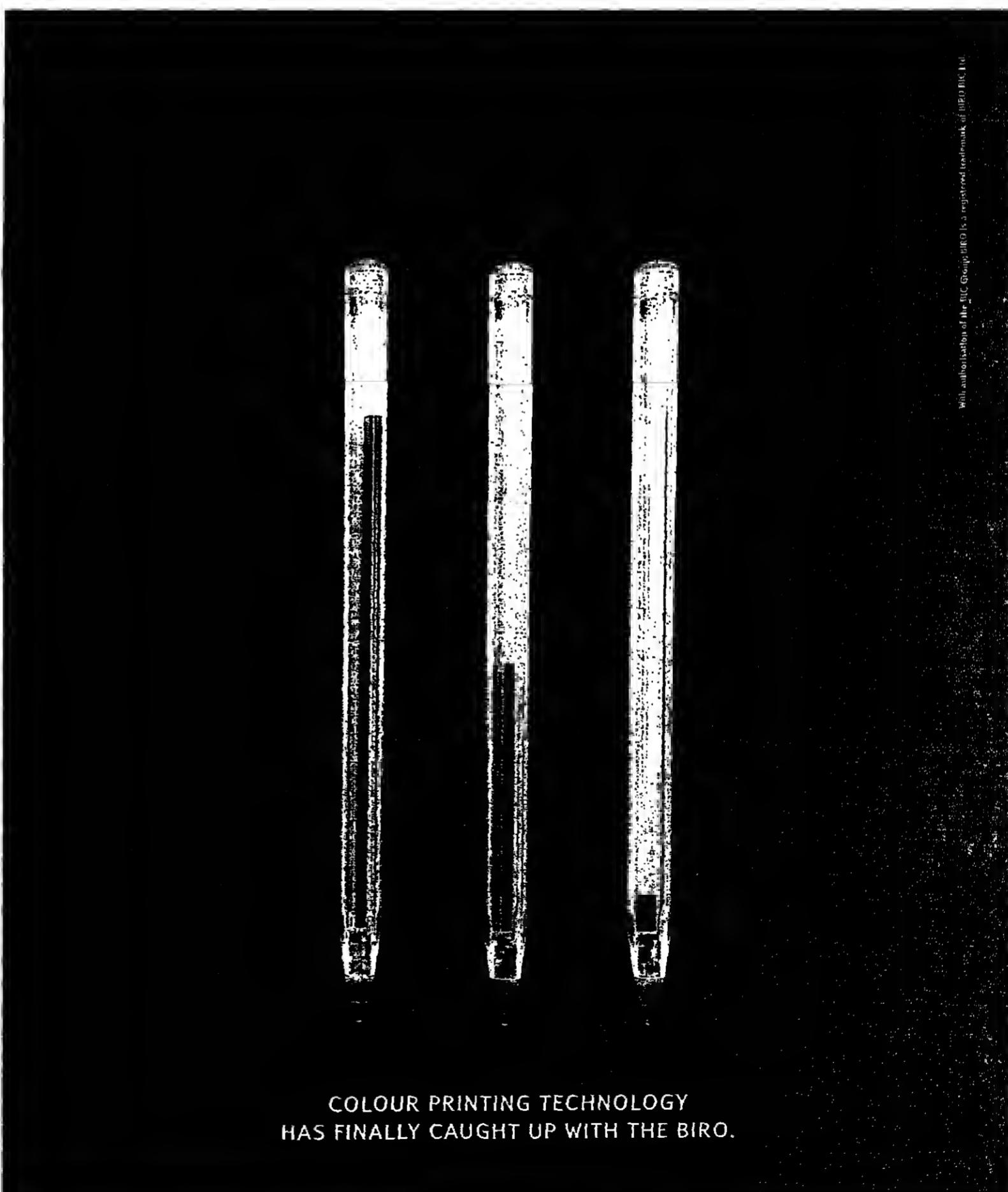
The flower has been given

an Award of Merit by the Royal Horticultural Society's Orchid Committee in recognition of the uniform colour of its petals. The society has commissioned a painting of the flower because it does not think photographs could portray its true colour.

McBean's hope to breed from the orchid but do not expect to start selling red orchids for at least three years. Betty Arnold, secretary of the Orchid Society, said: "Red is not a colour one normally associates with *phalaenopsis*.

Dr Henry Oakley, of the RHS Orchid Committee, said that breeding the flower was a tremendous achievement. "The orchid is unique in the sense of its true red colour which is uniform right out to the edges of the petals."

Mr Cramp said: "We couldn't believe it when we saw it. Everyone's chuffed that all our hard work's come to fruition."



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Victim tells how huge explosion ripped car apart

By JOANNA BALE



WITNESSES to the Brick Lane bomb described how the bustling street erupted into chaos as dozens of screaming people were showered with shards of glass and metal.

Some were on their way to a service at the London Jamia Masjid mosque, others were the first evening diners arriving at Indian restaurants and many were shoppers heading home from the market.

Emdad Talukder, 44, was pierced in the head by a large piece of glass when the bomb exploded a few feet from him as he chatted to his GP. Nursing a deep gash in his scalp yesterday, he said: "There was a terribly loud bang and I saw this red car jump four feet in the air as its boot exploded."

"The lid of the boot was ripped off and it flew up about 25 feet high. There was a huge fire and it went dark because

treated on the scene by his GP, Hosne Haq, who has a practice in Brick Lane. She said yesterday: "When the bomb went off we thought we were about to die. There was glass flying everywhere and a huge fire. I thought a building would collapse on top of us."

Dr Haq, who was with her husband, Abul, her sister, Ejaz Chowdhury, and a friend, Kulsum Haq, another GP, was on her way home to North London from rehearsals for a Bangladeshi cultural evening. She removed the glass from Mr. Talukder's head, stemming the blood with handkerchiefs.

"He was bleeding very heavily," she said. "I swabbed his wound with one hand and with the other rang the police on my mobile telephone.

"When an ambulance arrived, the paramedic was looking for more seriously injured people. Thankfully, everyone suffered only minor injuries."

Mr. Talukder, who works for an educational charity at Toynbee Hall near by, was

the air was filled with thick, black smoke. People were running and shouting. We ran into a side street and I felt that my hands were wet. I looked down and saw them covered in blood."

Mr. Talukder, who works for an educational charity at Toynbee Hall near by, was

The explosion set off a fire which engulfed an estate car parked behind the vehicle in which the bomb exploded outside Brick Lane police station

first time I have seen something like this. It's extremely disturbing. Everyone is scared that they will be next."

Shahid Ahmed, 18, was serving in the Sweet and Spice restaurant in the Whitechapel Road. He said: "All the windows at the front of the restau-

rant shattered and I went deaf. I ran down into the basement to get away. I have never been so frightened."

Mugum Ahmed, the owner of Cafe Naz, which was devastated by the blast, was with his wife Rashmi and five-year-old daughter, Monique, in Brick Lane. He said: "The force of the explosion went right through us and there was masses of fire and smoke.

"My wife fainted at the shock of it all and my daughter was screaming hysterical-

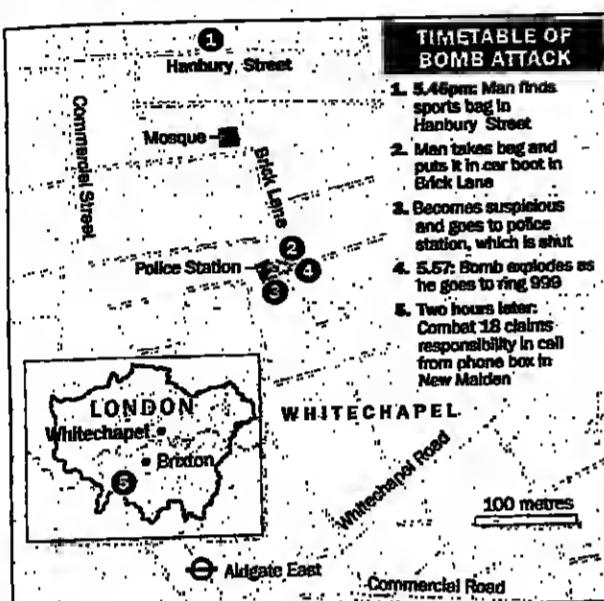
ly, but we were lucky not to be injured."

Arif Ullah, 27, Mr. Ahmed's

tandoori chef, suffered cuts

from flying glass. He said: "If

I hadn't been at the back of the restaurant I would have been killed."



Police chiefs in emergency talks to halt bombers

By STEWART TENDER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

WITHIN hours of the Brick Lane bomb a dozen senior police officers and security experts in London were called to an emergency meeting.

The Security Review Group, which oversees the capital's protection from terrorist attack, rarely meets on a Sunday. Now the Yard is so concerned at the threat from neo-Nazi terrorists that Sir Paul Condon, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, called the group from their weekend breaks into session yesterday.

They include officers from MI5, the City of London force and British Transport Police who were brought together to analyse the threat and make decisions about protecting the capital and catching the bomber. Membership includes the heads of the Special Branch and the Anti-Terrorist Branch, senior crime commanders and assistant commissioners.

After the bomb in Brixton, the Yard had increased foot patrols across London in areas with large ethnic-minority communities, including the Brick Lane area in the East End. Officers were moved from patrols in Central London and yesterday the group agreed that the police presence would be raised again in the streets of about a dozen areas in London with high concentrations of people from ethnic minorities.

The Yard is also urging all businesses, shops and councils in London to make sure private closed-circuit television systems are working.

But the key question before the group meeting yesterday

at the Yard was how to catch the bomber or bombers.

The groups on the Far Right have been extensively infiltrated by police and MI5. On the night of the Brixton bomb, Combat 18 supporters were at a private concert of right-wing rock music in Coventry. Detectives keeping watch found the Combat 18 members as surprised by the bomb as everyone else.

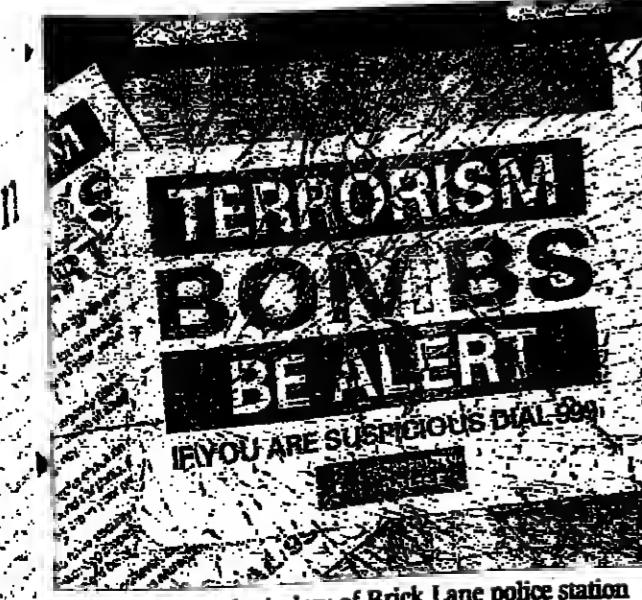
Special Branch in London has a small team watching the extreme Right. This is likely to be enlarged and the Yard will probably create an intelligence cell to sift all the information about the two bombs.

An expert in psychological profiles has been called in; he will work with analysts to get a picture of possible suspects. One question they will consider is why the bombs began when they did: none of the telephoned claims have given a reason such as the publication of the Stephen Lawrence report or anniversaries such as Hitler's birthday.

Police are also reviewing files on 400 to 500 extremists, looking for any with a history of violence and the technical capability to make the bombs.

They believe there are only about 30 hardcore activists within Combat 18 but on the fringes there are others about whom little is known.

Interpol has been asked to contact other European forces for intelligence. MI5 has links to intelligence services on the Continent. The Yard is aware of links between neo-Nazis here and in Denmark, Germany, Sweden and America.



The shattered window of Brick Lane police station

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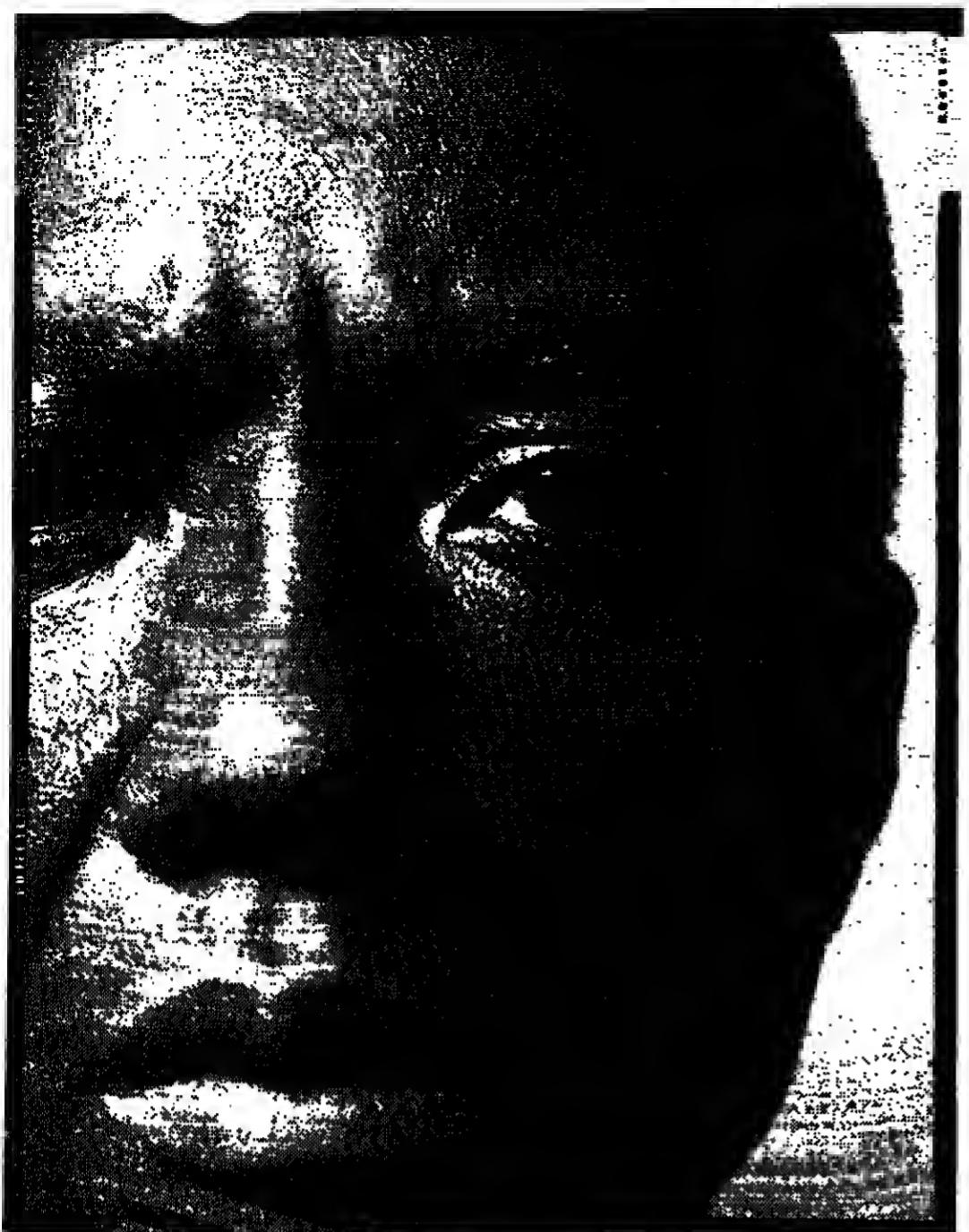


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To protect their right to justice, ask your MP to lobby for changes to the Access to Justice Bill now. Before it's too late.

The parents of the late Stephen Lawrence, Doreen & Neville, share these concerns about the impact of the Bill.



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LOGY OF WAR

Russian ships face searches on high seas

NATO'S proposed oil embargo on Yugoslavia and "blockade" of the Montenegrin port of Bar in the Adriatic will be enforced according to international law, Tony Blair's official spokesman promised yesterday.

Despite the pledge, Nato's decision to push for military action to stop oil tankers entering Bar, helping to fuel President Milosevic's tanks and armoured vehicles in Kosovo, will have to be pored over by lawyers.

One of the key areas, Nato officials said, would be the rules of engagement given to all warship commanding officers to make it clear what actions they can take in deterring, intercepting or boarding tankers suspected of carrying oil for Yugoslavia. President Chirac of France gave a strong warning on Saturday that intercepting a ship on the high seas "is an act of war in international law".

The Prime Minister, however, insisted that it was the French idea to have an oil embargo and that Paris was fully supportive. "Anything we do will be done in accordance with international law," he said.

Senior British defence sources at the Nato summit said that

Lawyers advise on oil blockade report Alice Lagnado and Michael Evans

although it was intended to operate a blockade, there were also plans to bomb the roads running through the mountains from Bar to ensure that those supplies that managed to get through would be prevented from reaching Serbia.

This would reverse Nato's pledge to avoid bombing infrastructure targets in Montenegro because of the need to support President Djukanovic in his stand against Mr Milosevic. The Montenegrin leader has been assured by Nato that he will still be able to receive his country's normal oil shipments. In return, Mr Djukanovic has agreed to allow Nato warships to control all tanker movements into Bar. The bombing of roads in Montenegro could, however, strain Nato's relationship with Mr Djukanovic.

Nato already has sufficient

warships in the Adriatic to implement a blockade once the legal arguments have been resolved. The United States has four cruisers and five destroyers, as well as the aircraft carrier, *Theodore Roosevelt*, and three submarines. The Royal Navy has the carrier, *HMS Invincible*, the submarine, *HMS Splendid*, and two frigates, *HMS Grafton* and *HMS Iron Duke*. Royal Marine commandos on board the two frigates would play a significant role in the proposed "visit and search" missions against suspect tankers.

The major question being asked at the summit yesterday was how Nato would react if faced by a Russian oil tanker bound for Bar. At the weekend the Kremlin made it clear that it would not respect a Nato-led oil embargo. "We cannot do anything to worsen the suffering of the people in Yugoslavia, and we will continue delivering oil in keeping with our international commitments," Igor Ivanov, Russia's Foreign Minister, said.

American officials made it clear that the naval blockade would cover all countries, including Russia. They added that the operation could be in force soon.

BALKANS WAR: NATO STRATEGY



Tony Blair taking a break in the Washington sunshine during the Nato summit



Oil embargo 'illegal'

A Nato blockade of Yugoslav ports and the forcible inspection of approaching oil tankers would be a breach of international law, legal experts said yesterday.

Stopping neutral ships on the high seas could be justified only if sanctioned by the United Nations or as a clear act of self-defence, one expert said. "It would require a new declaration."

Nato might argue that the action was justified under an extension of the doctrine of self-defence. But a unilateral declaration to that effect might not win international acceptance. To stop and board ships otherwise would be seen as aggression against the flag under which they were sailing.

The Government could try

BY MICHAEL BINION
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

to argue that Security Council Resolution 1160, which last month imposed an arms embargo on Yugoslavia, included wording that prohibited ships from carrying arms and related materiel — and this could be stretched to include oil. But that resolution still does not authorise the use of force.

After the invasion of Kuwait, Britain and America imposed a naval blockade on Iraq. But Washington insisted on a different form of words so as not to force the invocation of the American War Powers Act. Its action, called a "naval interdiction", was subsequently upheld by the UN.

Yugoslavia receives only a

fraction of its oil by sea. Until the airstrikes began, most of the 54,000 barrels it imported each day came from Russia (12,000 barrels), Ukraine, Greece, Bulgaria, Romania and the European Union. Most unrefined oil was imported through two main pipelines, from Croatia and Hungary. These have been closed.

Oil, especially from Russia, also came by barge up the Danube. Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, said yesterday that this was a main reason for blocking the river by bringing down the bridges. Yugoslavia produces a further 18,000 barrels a day of its own oil.

Only small quantities of refined oil come to Bar, on the Montenegrin coast, and have to be taken inland by lorry.

Writers confronted by the ethical dilemma

INSIDE GERMANY



BY ROGER BOYES

INTELLECTUALS, like generals, talk about present wars in the idiom of the past. George Orwell recalled in *Inside the Whale* (1940) that what was truly frightening about the war in Spain was the immediate reappearance in left-wing circles of the mental atmosphere of the Great War.

When the poet Vernon Scannell was wounded in the Second World War his emotional memory was:

"Not the war I fought in. But the one called Great. Which ended in a sepiia November. Four years before my birth."

Similar patterns emerge in the attitudes of writers to the Yugoslav war. Some see it as a reprise of the Spanish Civil War. The parallels are not precise since the bombing is being conducted not by the Condor legions on behalf of Franco but by Nato against a fascist Balkan dictator.

Even so, I like to imagine a Spanish-style International Brigade made up of Marin

— Austrian but claimed by the Germans until he made clear his pro-Serb sentiments — steps in the tradition of slightly crazed prophets — from D'Annunzio to Pound.

The backlash has been such — Susan Sontag says Handke is "finished in New York" — that his publishers had to remind the literary world that writers are entitled to different views. Handke is pretty much alone, although some scepticism about Nato has been filtering through from the salons.

On the whole it is a case of Brains for Bombs. Grass, as Germany's best-known novelist, regards himself as its voice of conscience; he favours not only airstrikes but ground troops. His heroes are often shrewd spectators of war. So when the author talks of the lessons of Auschwitz, he shapes the debate.

Only seven years ago German behaviour in the Second World War was seen as a reason for restraint. Now it is seen as a reason for military risk-taking.

Kosovo tests Nato's world enforcer role

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN WASHINGTON

NATO'S ambitious blueprint for military intervention beyond the alliance's borders has been unveiled while that strategy is being put to the test dramatically in Kosovo.

The outward-looking philosophy underpins Nato's interventionist determination, but has also exposed fresh divisions within the alliance while emphasising that its very future is at stake in the Balkans.

"We have reaffirmed our readiness to address regional and ethnic conflicts beyond the territory of Nato members," President Clinton said as the "Strategic Concept" was presented during the alliance's 50th anniversary summit in Washington. The concept provides Nato with a "road map" for military crises, according to Javier Solana, its Secretary-General — transforming a mutual defence agreement into a regional policeman willing and able to use its collective power to intervene when faced with ethnic conflagration, terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

Nato recognises the European Union's expanding role in defence policy and its right to approve military action where not all Nato members were concerned.

The redefining of Nato's role will equip it to "deal with

the security challenges of the new century", Mr Clinton said. The timing could hardly be more sensitive: when planners began addressing the question five years ago they little expected it would face such an immediate defining and potentially damaging test.

If Nato's Kosovo policy fails, then the strategic concept will have been shown to be a failure before it was born. "The stakes for Nato are Nato," one senior US policymaker said.

Differences within the alliance have been reflected in the blueprint's drafting, most notably over the UN's role. President Chirac of France said a passage recognising the UN's "primary responsibility" for maintaining international peace and security made it clear that Nato could not, and would not, act without UN authorisation — an interpretation contradicted by Señor Solana, who said a Security Council resolution would not be necessary before making an intervention outside Nato territory.

Members also agreed to expand intelligence-sharing, find ways to defend members against nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, and head off a growing gap in military technology between America and the other 18 allies.

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BALKANS WAR: HUMANITARIAN CRISIS

UN urges Britain to take more refugees

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN was under pressure last night to take more Kosovar refugees after a row erupted over the small number to arrive since bombing started.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) called on the Government to accept thousands like other European states.

As the first plane, carrying 161 refugees, arrived in Yorkshire, Lyndall Sachs, a spokeswoman for the UNHCR, urged the Government to allow more in.

She said: "At present we have 35 countries who have offered about 100,000 places, and countries such as Germany have just doubled their intake. Originally they were taking 10,000. They have already doubled that to 20,000. Britain needs to assist in burden-sharing from the area."

Unless more refugees were flown out of Macedonia, the Balkan state might take drastic action and push them across the borders, she said.

The assault on the Government's position was reinforced by Olaru Ottunnu, the personal representative of Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary-

General, who also called on Britain to take more refugees.

Referring to the refugees' arrival yesterday, Mr Ottunnu told ITV's *Dimbleby* programme: "I'm very pleased by this gesture. More is needed, both on the part of Britain and other Western countries. And they must also, more significantly, provide more support for the host families in Albania and Macedonia."

But Clare Short, the International Development Secretary, said the Government's duty was to look after people in the region and get them back to their homes. It was right to accept only those with special medical needs or who had relatives in Britain, she said.

"Of course we should help, especially needy cases. But flying people to Europe will not deal with the refugee problem. And our real duty is to defeat this evil, to look after people in the region and get them back home as soon as possible."

The £20,000 cost of flying the refugees from Skopje to Britain was met by her department.

They are to be permitted to stay in Britain for 12 months and will be able to apply for asylum. Unlike other refugees who are banned from working for their first six months in Britain, they are to be allowed to work immediately.

They will be eligible for all social benefits including income support, housing and council tax benefit, job seekers allowance and health service treatment.

A single person between 18 and 24 receives £40.70 a week in income support; a couple with dependent children over 18 gets £80.65. A family on income support also gets £20.20 a week for each child under 11, and £25 for those under 16.

TO
THE U.K.

A Kosovar boy gazes from a bus window before leaving a refugee camp in Macedonia for Britain yesterday

Kosovar children discover land of hope

Continued from page 1

a British Refugee Council worker who had travelled with them. "They are all highly relieved to be here, and grateful, but the one question they are all asking is: 'When can we go home?'. It needed just five baggage trolleys to car-

ry their possessions from the aircraft hold. Many had just plastic bags to hold all the things they now own in the world.

First aboard the Bulgarian airliner on landing was Catherine James, a senior West Yorkshire ambulance official who

job was to check for anyone in need of immediate medical aid. "There was one woman who complained of being unwell, but no-one needed hospital attention.

Inside the terminal they were put through what the Home Office described as "the

fastest immigration control on record". The refugees were then taken to one of two residential centres in the city.

They have all been granted visas to stay for up to a year and will be eligible to work or claim social security benefits immediately.



WORLD IN BRIEF

Tory demand for conflict inquiry

A commission of inquiry into the origins and conduct of Nato's offensive against Belgrade should be set up after the fighting ends, the Conservative Party proposed yesterday (Philip Webster writes). Michael Howard, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, said that the kind of far-reaching investigation that followed the Falklands war should be established to look into the "failure of diplomacy" that preceded the conflict, and some of the decisions taken during it.

Mr Howard and William Hague yesterday maintained Opposition support for Nato's stance, including the possibility of using ground forces, but Mr Howard called for more clarity from the Government on issues such as the legal basis for a blockade against Serbia.

Srpska arson attack

Banja Luka: The official car of Rajko Vasic, the Bosnian Serb Information Minister, was destroyed by an arson attack overnight. Mr Vasic is a member of the Government of Republika Srpska — the Serb-run part of Bosnia — which is being targeted by ultra-nationalists who resent its co-operation with the West while Nato is carrying out air raids against Serbs in Yugoslavia. (AFP)

Children vaccinated

Skopje: Unicef was today due to start vaccinating Kosovo children living in Macedonia's overcrowded refugee camps, beginning at the main Stankovic camp near here. About 9,000 under-fives will be immunised against polio, tuberculosis, diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, measles, mumps and rubella. Vaccinations for those with host families, and Macedonian children, will follow. (Reuters)

Ghetto leader's support

Warsaw: The only surviving leader of the 1943 Warsaw Ghetto uprising has urged Nato to defeat President Milosevic, likening the Serb campaign in Kosovo to the Holocaust. "Milosevic will not give up," Marek Edelman said at a meeting of the Freedom Union party. "Without eliminating Yugoslavia as a system, there will be no peace in the Balkans." He also said ground troops were essential. (AP)

Media boss in hiding

Podgorica: Montenegro's most prominent independent media figure says he is going into hiding to escape capture and possible torture by the Yugoslav Army. An arrest warrant has been issued for Miodrag Perovic founder of Montenegro's Antenna M radio station and its weekly magazine *Monitor*, in a sharp intensification of the military's battle against local news organisations. (Reuters)

Left bolsters Jospin

Paris: Robert Hue, the Communist leader, rowed back on veiled threats to quit the ruling coalition if France participated in any Nato ground offensive in Kosovo. "If we quit the Government, there's no longer a united coalition on the Left and [Prime Minister] Lionel Jospin would have to go. I don't want to do the Right that favour," he said. M Hue opposes President Milosevic but wants a return to diplomacy.

KOSOVAN HAVENS



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Law reform: Civil courts revolution • Legal aid row

Lawyers pay for delaying tactics

LAWYERS who indulge in "trial by combat" and try to drag out litigation face swinging financial penalties from today.

Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, has given warning that in the new "landscape for civil justice", anyone who acts unreasonably and refuses a settlement offer can be forced to pay damages with punitive rates of interest on top.

Judges will take control of the pace of litigation, setting tight deadlines. They also have wide powers to encourage settlement of disputes before trial.

Lord Woolf, author of the 1996 report that is the basis of today's reforms, said: "The main object is to change the culture of our litigation scene. We want to get away from a system which is exceptionally adversarial, a big fight using up unnecessary resources, and which really is a turn-off for ordinary members of the public: the system should be serving."

The shake-up makes it easier and cheaper for people to bring to court and defend a wide range of civil claims, from unpaid debts and breach of contract to personal injury actions and insurance claims. At the same time, the slow, costly system of litigation that has dominated civil justice for the past century is replaced with a judge-driven system in which lawyers will be punished and ordered to pay costs if they delay or act unreasonably.

There are built-in incentives to settle before trial and to use other methods of resolving disputes, such as mediation or arbitration. Lord Woolf said: "The courts will have

PRINCIPAL CHANGES

- Trials to be last resort, with financial incentives for litigants to settle instead
- Three trial tracks: small claims court up to £5,000, fast track up to £15,000 and multi-track for bigger, complex cases
- Judges receive powers to dis-
- miss weak claims and to impose costs penalties for delay
- Claimants' settlement offer with punitive interest to be paid by defendants who refuse offers later matched at trial
- Computers for courts and judges (delayed until next year)

the responsibility, which they have never had before, of encouraging people to settle disputes without going to court."

Under the new framework there are three tracks for disputes. Claims of up to £5,000 can be heard in the small claims court; claims of up to £15,000 in a new fast-track court where trial costs are capped, and big, complex cases on a multi-track in the High Court.

Lord Woolf said that people would be clearer about the cost of going to law. "What the ordinary person wants to know is how long it is going to take and how much it is going to cost."

Defendants would no longer be able to indulge in stalling tactics or conduct a war of attrition to wear down claimants and exhaust their resources.

From the new armoury of judges' powers he singled out the "offer to settle": if a claimant makes an offer that is rejected by the defendant, and the offer is later matched at trial, the defendant can be ordered to pay interest at 10 per cent above base rate — say 17 per cent — on the sums due, as well as full costs, again

with the same punitive interest rates.

Claimants also have to make a declaration as to the truth of their claims. If a claim later turns out to be false or ill-founded, costs penalties will be imposed. "Until now you could put forward anything to raise a smokescreen and avoid liability," Lord Woolf said. "Now people will have to mean what they say."

Some lawyers fear the changes will increase costs in the early stages of litigation, but most believe the reforms are well overdue. John Hull, a litigation partner with Richards Butler, said: "Some lawyers are worried and fear a bumpy ride ahead. No one likes change. But the customer is looking forward to it: they see they will get more for their money."

He added: "If lawyers think they can receive a claim form then sit back and do nothing until the next letter arrives, they are in for a shock. Everything will now happen at high speed and it will mean a big change in how we manage our cases."

Leading article and Letters, page 21 Law, page 41



Lord Woolf: "What people want to know is how long it is going to take and how much it is going to cost"

LibDem hopefus step aside in bid to block Kennedy

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND JAMES LANDALE



Campbell: seen to be having "a good war"

LEADING Liberal Democrats are preparing to step aside to allow Menzies Campbell to become the main "stop Charles Kennedy" candidate in the party's leadership race.

Mr Campbell, the Liberal Democrat foreign affairs spokesman whose profile is rising through regular appearances to comment on Nato's action against Belgrade, is expected to emerge as the figure most committed to carrying on Paddy Ashdown's policy of close relations with Labour.

Nick Harvey, the Liberal Democrat communications chief and one of the contenders to succeed Mr Ashdown, has indicated that he will pull out to support Mr Campbell. And over the weekend, senior Liberal Democrats were putting pressure on Don Foster, the education spokesman, to do the same to give Mr Campbell what one strategist described as a "sporting chance" of defeating Mr Kennedy, thought

objectives of Nato action while calling on the Government to do better over refugees. But senior party figures believe his main assets will be in his ability to appeal to wavering Tory voters who came over to the LibDems last time, and his appeal to Labour ministers who like him and have had close dealings with him during the past two years.

At 57, he would be in an ideal position to "bring on" younger MPs such as Mr Harvey after a few years in charge.

Mr Kennedy, one of the party's few MPs with star quality because of his high media profile, quickly became favourite to replace Mr Ashdown. He is portrayed as less keen on dealing with Labour, although Tony Blair is known to be relaxed about his succeeding Mr Ashdown.

Last week Mr Harvey said that he was issuing a "call to arms" to colleagues to sit down together and decide who really had the best chance of winning. The election was not an "ego trip", he said, and added: "It is not an absolute necessity for me to be a candidate."

Asked if he would back Mr Campbell, Mr Harvey replied that they "looked at things in a similar way" and would support candidates who took the party in a similar direction.

Mr Campbell told *The Times*: "I intend to make my final decision after the elections on May 6. But obviously a development of this kind and the position which Nick Harvey is adopting will play a substantial part in my decision. I think we view the direction the party should take in very similar terms."

The growing awareness among "project anti-Kennedy" contenders that only one can stand has yet to be mirrored by the more radical group of potential candidates. They include party spokesmen Jackie Ballard (local government), Simon Hughes (health), and David Rendel (social security).

The election campaign will begin formally on June 11 and end in mid-July. The result will be given in early August.

EU warning on 'separatism'

The European commissioner for regional policy has warned against the dangers of nationalism. Asked about the SNP's policy of independence within Europe, Monika Wulf-Mathies cited the Yugoslav war as an example of what could go wrong when small states were created. "I don't think this kind of separatist approach would be a very European one."

Chernobyl call by Green Party

The Scottish Green Party is commemorating the 13th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster by calling for nuclear power to be replaced with renewable energy sources. The party's principal speaker, Marian Coyne, said hill-farmers were still coping with the consequences of the accident.

CAMPAIGN FOR SCOTLAND 99

QUOTE of the day

It's a silly and self-contradicting report from the draft end of the political spectrum

SNP response to study showing independence could cost £10bn.

today's AGENDA

Sean Connery addresses the SNP rally in Edinburgh; David McLetchie, the Tory leader, visits Shetland; Malcolm Bruce, Liberal Democrat treasury spokesman, scrutinises Labour's spending pledges; Donald Dewar in Kilmarock and Ayr.

Connery, who is the SNP's most famous supporter, will galvanise activists who have been crushed by opinion polls showing that Labour has gained a 20-point lead.

The SNP promise that his speech, to which he put the finishing touches yesterday, will be "confident and inspiring".

The actor was offered help in composing his address by the party leader, Alex Salmond, and the chief executive, Mike Russell, but said he preferred to use his own words.

The rally, at the Edinburgh

International Conference Centre, is being billed as the highlight of the SNP's five-week election campaign. Mr Salmond and the SNP president, Winnie Ewing, will also make speeches. Later, Mr Salmond and Connery, who donates large sums to the SNP, will go on a walkabout in the city.

Preparations for the rally have gone ahead in an upbeat atmosphere despite the party's poll showing SNP leaders last week decided to take their message over the heads of the media directly to the voters.

Irvine clashes with Law Society

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A CONTROVERSY has erupted between the Lord Chancellor and the Law Society over an advertising campaign launched by the society this week against cuts in legal aid.

Lord Irvine of Lairg issued a statement today deplored society advertisements to be run this week in newspapers as "irresponsible scaremongering". In effect accusing the society of lying and misrepresentation, he goes on: "Many vulnerable people will be made to believe that they will lose their access to legal aid. That is just not true."

Lord Irvine is said to have been furious when advertisement proofs were shown to his department on Friday. He accuses solicitors of being motivated by worry over their incomes, saying "the Government cannot be expected to protect every solicitor from change".

Advertisements [such as the one on page 6 of today's Times] have been drawn up as part of the Law Society's campaign against proposals to reform the £1.6 billion legal aid scheme contained in the Access to Justice Bill.

It will move legal aid for most personal injury claims. Lawyers are expected to take such cases on a "no win, no fee" basis, with insurance firms providing cover.

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Cheese makers' threat to quit Britain

Red tape and over-harsh inspection regulations are putting squeeze on small firms, Valerie Elliott reports

SPECIALIST cheese makers are threatening to close their businesses and move abroad unless the Government's "hygiene police" relaxes enforcement of dairy controls.

New swathes of red tape, costly inspection checks and zealous enforcement by officials are threatening the livelihood of the country's 120 small specialist cheese producers.

They believe that the blitz is in response to a spate of E. coli poisonings and part of a plan to ban all unpasteurised milk from dairy products, even at the expense of family firms that have produced only safe food.

This week industry representatives are to meet Michael Wills, the Small Business Minister, to press for the exemption of small cheese makers from regulations and controls that they say are more appropriate for large corporations.

Arthur Cunyngham, the managing director of Paxton and Whitfield, the 200-year-old London cheese shop that supplies the Royal Family, said that ministers were hiding a plan to ban unpasteurised milk behind EU regulations. He said that the 165 pages of proposed new dairy hygiene rules would befuddle a corporate lawyer, let alone a small producer.

Mr Cunyngham, who is also president of the Specialist Cheesemakers Association, argues that all cheese manufacturers are governed by the

Food Safety Act 1990, which he says is sufficient regulation.

The plight of the cheese makers has resulted in a new alliance of small producers, including sheep farmers, wine growers and abattoir owners, who also face new controls. They are soon to form an all-party Campaign for Independent Foods to lobby ministers.

Among those leading the group are the Countess of Mar, who produces her own goats' cheese, John Redwood, the Tory Trade and Industry spokesman, Paul Tyler, the Liberal Democrat shadow Leader of the House, and Mark Todd, the Labour MP for South Derbyshire.

Lady Mar, a crossbencher in the Lords said last night that most regulations were intended to cover a factory process in which different people performed various tasks.

"It is in the interests of family firms to produce a clean, wholesome, flavoursome product that is not going to blight their reputation. There is far more personal control than in a factory," she said.

Lady Mar said that if small producers went out of business, village communities would also be affected.

Leon Downey, whose cheesery in West Wales has made the Langlofian brand for more than 20 years, said that he would not hesitate to move to France if there was any sign that the Government intended to ban unpasteurised milk. He



Leon Downey says plans to ensure that a cheese from each batch is microbiologically tested would cost him £300 each week

makes more than 15 tonnes of cheese each year, and his best-selling brand is an unpasteurised hard variety.

"There are no problems with unpasteurised milk in hard cheese. It is a self-cleansing method of cheese making," Mr Downey said. He said that lactic acid produced by curds and whey destroyed coliforms such as E-coli. "Bureaucrats

know nothing about cheese making its principles or methods. They want to pasteurise everything... but then people will start to lose their immunity," he said.

Mr Downey fears that the Government will double the number of checks on his farm. At the moment, the annual Ministry of Agriculture cow shed inspection costs him £94,

and two more milk tests £120. He is particularly worried about plans to ensure that a cheese from every batch should be sent for microbiological testing. The £50 tests could cost him as much as £300 a week.

In most recent tests the coliform bacteria count in his cheese was 1. "To pass the test you have to be less than 100."

he said. "The total bacterial count must be less than 20,000 — ours was 2,100."

Last night a Ministry of Agriculture spokesman said that the department was still consulting the industry over proposals to increase hygiene checks on raw milk and raw milk products.

The checks, he said, were the alternative to banning raw

milk from food products altogether. "We welcome and will listen to the views of the small cheese producers," he said.

□ Netlinks: cheese information: www.cheese.com
Pictures of cheese: www.zen.net/com/cheese/
CheeseNet: www.wgx.com/cheesernet/

Leading article, page 21



CHEESEMAKER PORTRAIT
Valerie Elliott, Editor-in-Chief

Teachers deaf to appeal of 'golden hellos'

BY A CORRESPONDENT

THE Government's "golden hello" scheme to attract graduates into teaching has failed to halt the recruitment crisis, a head teachers' leader said yesterday.

John Dunford, the general secretary of the Secondary Heads Association, said that some schools would soon be unable to fill posts in subjects such as foreign languages because too few young people were joining the profession.

More than two thirds of the way through the recruitment year, applications for courses starting in September look set to fall short of last year's level of 14,000. The Education Department's target is 16,800, which it says is "more realistic" than the 19,000 it had aimed for last year. A spokesman said yesterday that it was too early to say whether the target would be met.

Government concern at the low level of applications last year led to the introduction in October of golden hellos worth £5,000 for applicants to train for teaching key subjects, such as maths and science. Mr Dunford said, however, that the number of applications to teach subjects such as French, business, history and English was plummeting.

"What has the Government done about it? First they reduced the targets for secondary recruitment. Then they expressed delight that... applications for postgraduate recruitment for maths and science courses have been met as a result of their golden hello scheme. In fact, these figures mask a worsening of the recruitment crisis."

While there has been a 24 per cent increase in students

registering for maths courses, a 16 per cent increase for biology, 13 per cent for chemistry and 4 per cent for physics, there has been a 21 per cent drop in registrations for training as French teachers, 10 per cent for history, 15 per cent for art, 6 per cent for English and 5 per cent for religious studies.

"The first thing we will see is schools not able to deliver the National Curriculum in foreign languages, because they simply do not have the teachers," Mr Dunford said.

"While you can perhaps convert someone quite quickly into a maths or a science teacher, perhaps bringing someone from industry, you can't get someone to learn a foreign language that quickly and then learn how to teach it."

David Bennett, head teacher at Sackville School in East Grinstead, West Sussex, told the conference he had been forced to recruit a German teacher from a shortlist of one and "ended up being interviewed by the candidate".

An Education Department spokesman said: "We are determined to tackle recruitment issues, and the Green Paper on teachers' pay is aimed at modernising the profession and will attract more people." The Green Paper proposes performance-based pay rises of up to £40,000 for classroom teachers, but has met considerable opposition from unions.

□ One set of parents in five depends totally on school meals to provide their children with a balanced diet and three out of five agree that those meals play a vital role, a Gallup survey has found.

Runaway heifer finds sanctuary

A heifer that escaped from a slaughterhouse has won a reprieve. A Plymouth animal charity that praised its sense of survival has raised £1,000 to send the animal to a Norwich sanctuary. It charged past slaughtermen at Kingsbridge, Devon, on arriving from a farm last week and ran into the town. After armed police and a helicopter were called, the heifer was caught in a field.

Hunt for hit-and-run van driver who killed PC

BY MICHAEL HORSNELL

A TRAFFIC policeman who was run down and dragged 100 yards by a hit-and-run driver died in hospital yesterday.

PC Jeffrey Tooley, 26, was carrying out a routine speed check on the A259 in Shoreham, West Sussex, on Saturday night when he was struck by the van, apparently deliberately. He sustained head injuries in the incident, involving a white Renault Trafic van, and died 12 hours later.

The fire brigade was later called to a burning vehicle at a farm near Brighton and police were investigating to establish whether it was the van involved. It was later taken away for forensic tests.

"All his colleagues are extremely saddened and devas-

tated by his loss", said Assistant Chief Constable Tony Lake. "We have opened an incident room and are treating this as a major crime."

PC Tooley was a highly regarded officer and he died doing a routine job, a speed check that hundreds of officers do every day. His death is very, very sad for the force and for Sussex as a whole."

Detective Superintendent Alan Ladley, who is leading the murder inquiry, said: "He was knocked down by a van that failed to stop. He suffered serious head injuries and despite being taken to Worthing Hospital died shortly before noon."

"We desperately need to trace this vehicle. It was a white Renault Trafic which

witnesses have described as having distinctive stripes down the side, possibly green in colour."

He added: "Most of all I appeal to the driver of the van to come forward and talk to us about what happened."

PC Tooley was wearing a reflective jacket and carrying a torch in a well-lit area just before midnight on Saturday when the incident occurred. He was with a fellow officer carrying out routine speed checks when the van swerved into the centre of the road and hit him.

"We are concerned this might have been a deliberate act which is why we are treating it as a murder inquiry at the moment", Mr Ladley added.

Boys spent year planning 'big kill'

Diary shows carnage was meticulously plotted, writes Giles Whittell

A METICULOUS diary found at the weekend shows that the Columbine High School shootings were planned for up to a year down to the last detail, including hand signals used by the gunmen to maximise their carnage.

The diary, discovered on the eve of a televised memorial service for the victims in Littleton, Denver, showed that Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold were not targeting sworn enemies but were "going for the big kill" and the destruction of their entire school, officials said. Across the country, schools were coping with a wave of copycat bomb threats, most of them hoaxes.

Sheriff John Stone of Colorado's Jefferson County would not say which suspect kept the diary but he described its tone at a press conference: "It was 'Day One, we do this. Day Two, we do this,'" counting



Thirteen roses, one for each of the pupils shot in the Columbine massacre, were placed on the fence around the school's tennis court at the weekend

down to "rock-and-roll time" at 11.15am last Tuesday, he said. Fifteen people died in the three hours of terror that followed, among them Harris

and Klebold. The suicidal teenagers had been building bombs and collecting guns for months, Sheriff Stone said. To plant the explosives undetected they had drawn up a map of the school marking its ill-lit areas, and they struck during the school lunch-hour to corner the largest possible

number in an enclosed space. "They wanted to do as much damage as they could possibly do and destroy the school and as many children as they could, and go out in flames." Up to 30,000 mourners were expected at a Denver stadium yesterday for a memorial service attended by Vice-President

Clinton, Gore, Governor Bill Owens of Colorado and the Rev Billy Graham's son, Frank Graham.

The even followed the funeral of Rachel Scott, 17, the first of the victims to be buried and a shining star at Columbine who was remembered as a gifted actress and devout Christian. More funerals follow this week.

A chilling e-mail purporting to be written by Harris before his death was discounted as a hoax. Many had joined his Trenchcoat Mafia for solidarity, and every pupil knew the gang existed. Not so Frank DeAngelis, the headmaster. "I had never heard of it until Tuesday," he said.

A chilling e-mail purporting to be written by Harris before his death was discounted as a hoax. Many had joined his Trenchcoat Mafia for solidarity, and every pupil knew the gang existed. Not so Frank DeAngelis, the headmaster. "I had never heard of it until Tuesday," he said.

Five boys aged 13 and 14 were arrested in central Texas on Saturday after fellow pupils at their school in Wimberley told police about a bomb plot planned since January. Homemade bombs and instructions for building them downloaded from the Internet were found at the boys' homes. The local sheriff insisted "that these young men were serious about targeting students".

A Newsweek poll says that 50 per cent of Americans favour banning handguns after last week's massacre, the highest proportion since 1982.

Briton killed in 'fortress' estate

FROM RAY KENNEDY
IN JOHANNESBURG

A BRITISH resident was pinned to the floor and shot dead in the back of the head at the weekend after intruders broke into his home in an up-market Johannesburg estate which is surrounded by high security walls and patrolled night and day by armed guards.

Roger Prevent, 49, and his family were asleep in their home in Four Ways Gardens on Saturday night when his wife Linda, 47, was woken by the sound of a glass patio window being smashed.

Police said yesterday she ran into a passage and saw two men. As she tried to flee back to the bedroom they opened fire shooting her in both legs and in the neck and stomach. She is seriously ill in hospital. It appeared, the police said, that Mr Prevent struggled with the men in the bedroom before he was forced face down to the floor and shot in the back of his head.

The attackers fled and although the motive for the break-in may have been robbery nothing was taken.

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Obituaries, page 23

WORLD IN BRIEF

Huge drug haul found in Spain

Madrid: Spanish police uncovered the largest haul of heroin to be found in Europe in the past two years (Giles Tremlett writes). They said the 319kg of drugs, found buried in containers in woods near Avila, 100 miles northwest of here, had a street value of more than £10 million. Police arrested 12 members of an international drugs gang with links to both Asia and Latin America.

They named the head of the gang as Urfi Ceinkaya, 50, a wheelchair-bound Turk. They said Ceinkaya is living in Istanbul, having fled Spain after being remanded on bail in 1995. The drugs had been smuggled into Spain via Holland hidden inside a large industrial drilling machine.

Cultists besiege Beijing leaders

Beijing: About 15,000 followers of the Fa Lun Gong religious cult besieged the Chinese Communist Party leaders' compound here to demand official recognition (James Pringle writes). Those taking part in the capital's biggest protest since the violent suppression of pro-democracy demonstrations in October 1989 stood quietly, shoulder to shoulder, before dispersing after nightfall.

India heads for another election

India's main Communist party, the second biggest opposition group, rejected appeals for its leader, Jyoti Basu, 84, the veteran Chief Minister of West Bengal, to form a new government, bringing closer the prospect of a third general election within three years (Michael Binyon writes).

Mugabe tightens curbs on press

Harare: President Mugabe of Zimbabwe is tightening press controls by strengthening criminal libel laws that were introduced in the 1960s to curb black critics of white minority rule (Jan Raath writes). Journalists could no longer use "so-called civil liberties" as a shield, he said.

Australian artist Boyd dies at 78

Adelaide: Arthur Boyd, the renowned Australian artist, died on Saturday in Melbourne hospital at the age of 78. A painter, sculptor and potter, Mr Boyd was regarded as one of Australia's greatest contemporary artists.

Dare you to wear i

Madonna

FASHION DIA

Madonna

Madonna

BREAST RE

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Dare you to wear it



Perhaps years of minimalism have done it, but avant-garde fashion has never looked more desirable than it does right now. This is partly because masters of the genre such as Yohji Yamamoto and Helmut Lang have refined their art to such a degree that the intellectual statements and challenging silhouettes of their clothes have become so subtle as to pass almost unnoticed.

The cognoscenti now appreciate the innovation doesn't come only in the form of a one-sleeved jacket or heels of different heights on pair of shoes à la Jeremy Scott, but that it can also take the shape of a gentle ripple of pin-tucks on a shirt sleeve or the shoul-



"it's all about yellow", it follows that designers are going to have to be cleverer and clever to shake off the cheaper competition. Perhaps it's simply that the avant-garde has become less strident, more deviously appealing.

You could argue that wearable avant-garde is a contradiction in terms: if something is truly ground-breaking, shouldn't it be tricky, chal-

lenging and impossible to wear? Maybe (bear in mind, there's still plenty of the hardcore stuff around). Perhaps the clothes in these pictures represent a sub-genre of the avant-garde. Or perhaps these avant-garde designers have just grown tired of experimenting with different ways to look peculiar and instead took up different ways to look beautiful.

Either way, avant-garde fashion is out there in a way that it hasn't been for much of the Nineties. Carolyn Besette-Kennedy, the ultimate uptown girl, wears it out and about in Manhattan. Hollywood fashion divas such as Madonna and Nicole Kidman are so keen to flaunt their intellectual-fashion credentials that they can't wait to slip into something a little offbeat. Do not fret that these artists are applying their needles in iso-

lated poverty. Junya Watanabe, a protégé of Comme des Garçons' Rei Kawakubo and the creator of some of the most beautiful clothes in Paris, recently received a standing ovation for his complex metal and folded pieces. Meanwhile, slick international houses such as TSE in New York or Givenchy and Hermès in Paris recognise that even a label that pitches for the luxury sportswear or classic tailored suit market can do

so more successfully if it has an avant-garde pioneer such as Hussein Chalayan, Alexander McQueen or Martin Margiela at its helm.

So don't think of the clothes on this page merely as making arresting images. They are meant to be worn and may well turn out to be classics of the future (certainly they stand more chance of doing so than that fluorescent-yellow poncho that you've been eyeing up for this summer).

Madonna faces the Factor

THE fact that Max Factor has chosen Madonna to be its face is all well and good — acknowledgement as it is that 40-year-old women can look attractive (remember the furore when Lancôme relieved the then 40-year-old Isabella Rossellini of the burden of her contract). And it makes sense, given that the ads mark the debut of the Max Factor Gold range.

Max Factor's enlightened attitude would be even more laudable had not all Madonna's crows' feet and laughter lines been airbrushed into oblivion. To be fair, Max Factor is by no means the only cosmetics company guilty of this sleight of hand. Revlon appears to have an aversion to showing real flesh in its ads (its pores). Still, times have changed since Rossellini was so shoddily treated. Dayle

Haddon, a Seventies model who worked as a dishwasher in the Eighties to support her young daughter, recently saw her book, *Ageless Beauty*, heading up *The New York Times* bestseller list. Having struggled in the late Eighties to get beauty companies to adopt her as a mature spokesperson (she was 39), she founded her own company, Dayle Haddon Concepts, and the phone started ringing. A Clai-

rol contract was followed by one for Estée Lauder. For the past four years she has been the face of L'Oréal's Plenitude Revitalift. Karen Graham, another Seventies cover girl, is the model for Estée Lauder Resilience Lift. Maud Adams, an Eighties Bond girl, is the president and company face of Marja Entrich Green Collection, a Scandinavian line. Given that women over 35 account for 60 per cent of the market, this can only be to their benefit; make-up companies ignore these demographics at their peril.

Madonna had no problems applying herself to modelling. "I think she was flattered to be asked," says Ann Francke of Procter & Gamble, which owns Max Factor. "And when she realised that past house models included Bette Davis

and Rita Hayworth she really threw herself into things."

Madonna's enthusiasm included choosing the make-up artist Sarah Monzani, who created her Forties look in *Evita* and is now turning her into a bronzed ("it's time-consuming, Madonna never tans") Californian yoga teacher for her role opposite Rupert Everett in *The Next Best Thing*.

"She's not afraid to use makeup. On *Evita* she put in her teeth and eyes (she wore a veneer to cover the gap in her front teeth and brown contact lenses) and she'd become Eva Perón. It takes commitment to wear veneers, contacts and lashings of fake tan, but if the part demands it ... For her next campaign perhaps she'll even sport the odd wrinkle.

■ MARKS & SPENCER has taken so many knocks recently that it seems almost spiteful to sling yet more arrows its way. However, I had to check out its summer offerings ... the best pieces were the stretch cotton shirt with three-quarter-length sleeves, £30; the trish linen range, which had hooded sleeveless tops for £26, and bias-cut long skirts in black or stone for £40; and some sporty hybrids such as a grey sleeveless shirt that came with a drawstring skirt, both in a grey polyester mix that looks like lightweight wool but is machine-washable. It isn't a huge cache of goodies considering the amount of merchandise on offer in the Marble Arch store, and it slots into the useful rather than the irresistible category. I can't help thinking that until it takes more notice of fashion trends, everything on its rails will look a little limp.

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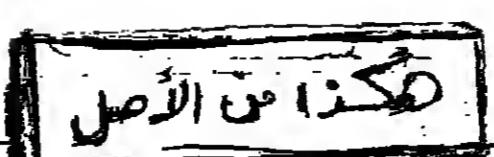
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FAR LEFT: Jacket, £389, and trousers, £119, by Comme des Garçons at Liberty, Regent Street W1. (0171-493 1258)

LEFT: Top, £305, and skirt, £675, both by Junya Watanabe, from Liberty, as before; trainers, £39.99, by adidas at branches of Office Shoes and Offspring (0181-838 4447)

ABOVE: Panel dress, £260, by Hussein Chalayan, from Browns, 23-27 South Molton Street W1. (0171-514 0051)

RIGHT: Top, £130, and skirt, £182, both by Shelly Fox from Whistles, 12 St Christopher's Place W1. (0171-251 8861)

PHOTOGRAPHER: KEVIN FOORD
Stylist: Charlie Hamington
Make-up: Alex Bebbey at Mandy Cooley
Hair: Matthew Cross using LO2 hair-care products by Goldwell
Model: Shona at Select

Great avant-garde clothes have a way of becoming timeless and ageless (it's no coincidence that Yamamoto, Issey Miyake and Comme des Garçons have more 70-year-old aficionados than the average fashion label). The next time you're tempted to buy something special, consider these. The air may seem rarefied up on the plains of avant-garde fashion, but it's amazing how pure it feels once you get there.

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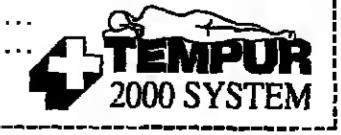
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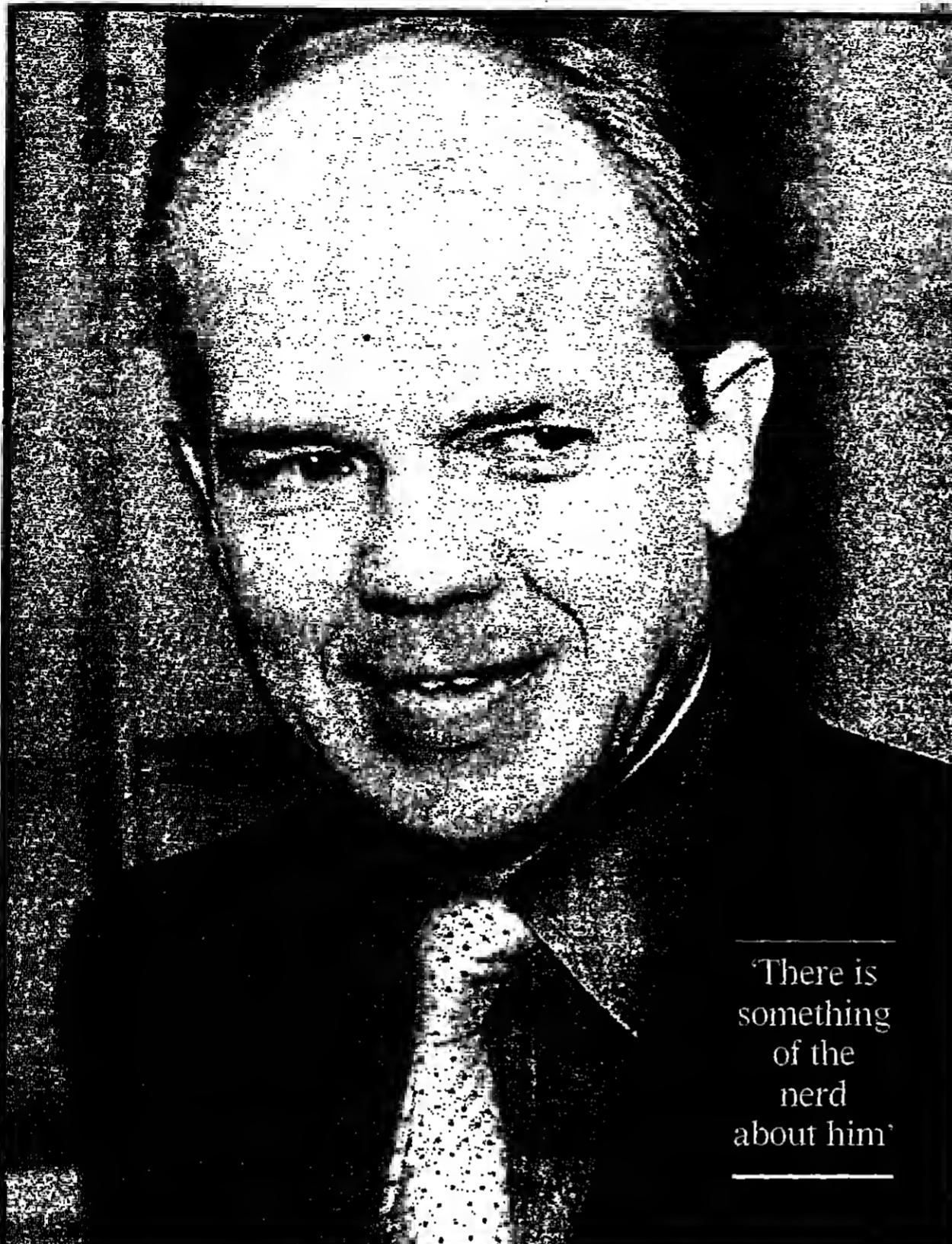
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GEORGE WALDEN: MEMOIRS OF AN ANTI-POLITICIAN

nothing occurs to me



There is something of the nerd about him

William Hague: "There seems no harm in him because where there is no personality there can be no harm"

CHRIS PATTEN

WHEN I heard that Chris Patten was being considered as Governor of Hong Kong, I felt concerned. For all his talents and "watcher, cock" amiability, I was by no means sure that he was the man to steer the place through the years ahead. I told him I did not understand our tactics. If more voices were needed to denounce the Chinese leaders, I would be happy to oblige. Otherwise I did not see how the frightened old men of Beijing,

many of whom ran them a close second.

Having accepted the job, Patten began playing David to China's Goliath. I went to see Hurd and told him I did not understand our tactics. If more voices were needed to denounce the Chinese leaders, I would be happy to oblige. Otherwise I did not see how the frightened old men of Beijing,

who had crushed students under tanks in the presence of the world's cameras, could be sensitised to the need for more democracy in Hong Kong by public pressure alone.

Hurd was his usual "now let's be sensible and keep steady" self. The only reassurance he could offer was that the Americans were foursquare behind us. I watched for signs of their support, and saw what I had expected: the White House proclaiming the sanctity of human rights at the top of its voice then instantly buckling under the pressure of the US business lobby.

I was indignant about what I saw as a hypocritical British policy, endorsed for opportunistic reasons by all sides of the House. Our late conversion to democracy in Hong Kong was essentially a conscience-salving exercise: to assuage our guilt in handing back a colony we had taken under the immoral circumstances of the Opium War to an immoral regime. Far from being heroic and altruistic, our stance seemed to me to be self-serving and, in a sense, cynical. There was every chance that our actions would end up leaving the people of Hong Kong with less democracy, not more. Which is exactly what happened.

Not everyone was blind to what was happening. Quite a few Tory backbenchers took the view that, in their words, Patten had "buggered it up". But Hong Kong was not the sort of issue that led to backbench rebellions.

So the British decked themselves out in their moral finery, and the charade took its course. The Royal Yacht sailed in, the retreat was movingly orchestrated. Patten's friend Jonathan Dimbleby made a hagiographic TV film based on his still more hagiographic book *The Last Governor* and "honour" was satisfied. The Chinese had their pretext to undermine the elected Legislative Council, and proceeded to do so, so everyone was happy. One crucial, unanswered

question remains. Before Patten was appointed, a confidential understanding defining the degree of democracy Hong Kong would enjoy had been reached between the British and Chinese Governments, and enshrined in an exchange of letters signed by Douglas Hurd. It is hard to think of anything more central to Patten's mission, yet in *The Last Governor* Dimbleby says that Panen had not seen or heard of the letters before the confrontational speech he made after his arrival. No wonder the Chinese Communists called Patten a double-dealer.

For reasons best known to himself, Dimbleby fails to answer the central question: how could Hurd, who had signed the letters, and Major, who



Patten: unanswered questions

must have been in the know, have failed to warn Patten? Dimbleby shuffles the blame on to others, and quotes Hurd as chiding them for not reminding him to show the vital letters to the new Governor. This explanation is unconvincing. Why did Hurd and Major not tell Patten personally that there might be some difficulty about re-engaging the battle for democracy, on account of how they had long since sold the pass? If he was kept in the dark, Patten would seem to have a legitimate grievance. Yet given the relationships involved, we seem unlikely to discover the truth from the luvvie circle of Dimbleby/Hurd/Major/Patten.

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TOMORROW
A nuclear bombshell
from David Owen

WILLIAM HAGUE

WHENEVER I talked to Hague in the Commons and asked him how things were going or for his opinion on this or that, he either smiled or giggled. I am told it was the same when he was in Cabinet, though there it was more smiles than giggles.

For all his brightness and McKinsey past there is something of the nerd about him: what can you say of a man who since his early teens has been tramspotting MPs? Of course he's good at PM's Question Time: he's been playing at being Prime Minister all his life. It's just bad luck on him that Question Time, in the popular imagination, has ceased to be important. Pity he didn't go through the normal phases of being a Green or a Trotskyite. Like those infuriating voters who say "Don't worry about me, I've always voted Tory", you want to say to him, look, you're an intelligent fellow, has it never crossed your mind, not even once, that there could be another way of looking at things?

He has all Major's niceness and decency, in corporate form, and there seems no harm in him because where there is no personality there can be no harm. In all the years we were in Parliament together somehow I can't recall a single thing he has ever said or done that is of interest.

When I think of William Hague, nothing occurs to me.

Not giving a sod is Ken's forte

POOR Ken Clarke battles on, genially exasperated, and you have to hand it to a man who never lets his exasperation drown his geniality. In his position I might be tempted to hit someone. He invites me to a meeting with half a dozen colleagues to discuss electoral strategy (why me, I cannot imagine). The meeting is a waste of time. The jet-lagged, florid-faced Chancellor cannot breathe a word without some Euro-maniac saying, well, that's all very well, Ken, but what about EMU and the convergence criteria? What is really astounding about him is that, while most other Europeans are busily trimming, Ken just goes on saying what he thinks.

One evening I ask him where he's off to next. Southern France, he says, and boy am I looking forward to it. All that fantastic food and wine, superb weather. I love it down there! I find myself glancing round to see who's listening. This is traitorous stuff, like a Soviet finance minister saying he is off on a trip to the West and by Christ is he glad to get out of this hole. For this is a party where allegedly grown-up people like William Cash go round saying they don't like continental wines, never have done, give me Australian any day. When I select burgundy in preference to oceanic or South African at dinner, jokes are made about francophiles. But of course they are not jokes. This party is not just sick unto its soul, it's sick unto its liver.

Ken doesn't give a sod. Not giving a sod is Ken's forte, and being a lazy sod somehow increases the attraction. He is too indolent to care what becomes of him in the party. If you want me as leader, he seems to be saying, take me as I am, along with my thoroughly genuine and touchingly non-representational wife. Ken and Mrs Ken are the least political pair in Parliament and therefore, in the eyes of a non-politician like myself, greatly to be applauded. The trouble is



Kenneth Clarke: an entertaining parliamentary character

that behind it all he would be very happy to be leader, but knows he is going nowhere. The paradox of our Ken is that the bluff outspoken pro-European is a super patriot, a professional Mancunian who seems to think that we are every bit as good as we were and have a monopoly of common sense. So why all the fear and defensiveness about Europe? In a curious way his cavalier optimism about the single currency and European integration is as much a form of British complacency as the "Europhobes" opposition. He thinks we are above it all and can bluff our way through. Have another one? Well, kind of you to ask. I think I will. Cheers!

The last time I saw him

was after the elections. By then he had lost his leadership challenge and was as far out in the new Tory party as it is possible to be. A couple of months earlier he had been Chancellor of the Exchequer; now he was sitting alone in the Garret. He joined us for dinner, and was as much himself as ever. No bitterness, no venom, just lots of enthusiasm about a bird-watching trip he was planning. His future seems to be to turn into one of our parliamentary characters, of the more entertaining variety, though it seems a waste.

• Extracted from *Lucky George* by George Walden, to be published by Penguin on May 6. Price £12.99. To order call 0800 334459

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POP
Harry Styles
for Happy
Mondays
THIS PAGE

Paris hails the African Rodin

VISUAL ART: Adam Sage visits a bridge over the Seine to see the sculpture show that is causing a sensation in the French capital

A cold, unpleasant rain is falling on the French capital. The Seine is choppy. It is a day for right-thinking Parisians to begin lunch at 11.45am and continue eating until late afternoon. But on the Pont des Arts, several hundred people are ignoring common sense, pangs of hunger and the chill wind to witness the most successful exhibition in Paris this spring.

The bridge contains 68 sculptures by a Senegalese artist, Ousmane Sow, who was almost unknown in France until now. His large, rough-hewn figures portray African tribal peoples, including the mighty Nuba wrestlers and his own slender, elegant ethnic group, the Peulhs. The centrepiece is a frieze that tells the story of the Battle of Little Big Horn. A giant and faintly African-looking Siting Bull implores the gods to help him. A few metres along the Pont des Arts, one of General George Armstrong Custer's soldiers is scalped by a Sioux warrior.

The sculptures are the latest in a series of free open-air exhibitions laid on by Paris Town Hall. Over the past decade, there have been works by Botero and Giacometti on the Champs Elysées and, last year, by Mark di Suvero on the Champs-de-Mars.

The announcement of this year's attempt to "bring art to the people" met, at first, with incredulity. How would sophisticated Parisians react to the powerful, sensual but unsophisticated work of Sow. French critics asked, "Everyone is extremely upset," said *Le Monde* as the exhibition opened. "Absolutely everyone."

Not so today. As more than 5,000 people cram morning and afternoon on to the small pedestrian bridge between the Louvre and the Académie Française, Sow has won stunning acclaim and popularity.

"The African Rodin" was how *Le Parisien* described him. "One of the world's greatest living sculptors" was *Le Monde's* reconsidered verdict. A burly security guard at the Académie end of the Pont des Arts said: "The

bridge is a mass of people at the weekend. You can't move and we have to let them on in small groups." The Town Hall says this is one of the most successful open-air exhibitions it has put on.

If the crowds are a surprise, then so, too, is Sow's career. Born in Dakar in 1935, he trained and worked as a physiotherapist for 30 years before turning to sculpture at the age of 50. His first shows were held in the basement of his practice in Paris, where he emigrated in the 1970s before returning to Senegal as his work started to attract critical attention 20 years later.

His knowledge of the human body is clear and striking. The muscles on the 2.5m tall Indians at Little Big Horn are tense. The Nuba wrestlers are poised to spring forward with an earth-shaking leap.

"We live in an electronic world where we ignore what is essential," says Sow, who himself measures almost two metres. "Me, I talk of the human being." There is energy, sex and violence. "We have to struggle to conquer the woman we love," he says. "The struggle is a means of existence."

His figures are built up using layers of cloth sacking around an iron frame, giving them an air of papier-mâché. But the artist refuses to reveal the ingredients that go into his paste.

"It is a synthetic vegetable product that is macerated in about 20 different casks."

He claims to seek energy and movement more than realism. "If you want precision, you could copy the wooden horses from roundabouts," he says. "They are perfect but have no life, no depth." Yet to his crowds of new admirers, Sow is a welcome change from the highly abstract art that dominates contemporary Parisian exhibitions. "This is all accessible, unlike most modern art," said Serge de la Vallée, a 43-year-old builder from Paris. "Everyone can get the gist of it straight away. It's great." So great, in fact, that he had skipped lunch to see it.

• Ousmane Sow's sculptures are on show until May 20

More than 5,000 people pack the Pont des Arts'



Bridging a cultural divide: a few of the 68 giant sculptures created by the Senegalese physiotherapist turned sculptor, Ousmane Sow

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A blast from the indie past

POP

Happy Mondays Manchester



In the mood to dance: Bez in action at the Manchester gig

sively from *Pills 'N' Thrills*. A surprisingly tight, infectiously funky set began with *Loose Fit*, which was followed by a run of old favourites such as *God's Cop*, *Kinky Afro*, *Denis*

And *Lois* and an ecstatically received *Step On*. It was even possible to make out most of Ryder's slang-like lyrics. In the past, the singer tended to mumble his way through

words scrawled on to pieces of paper. His memory had not improved, however. The newly professional Mondays had simply placed Autocues all over the stage.

The only real criticism of the evening was the absence of the original guitarist Mark Day, whose unique playing style was a large part of Happy Mondays' distinctive sound. Replacement Wags, formerly of Black Grape, may have been technically better, but he could not recreate Day's endearingly haphazard chords.

The show ended with an encore of the new single *The Boys Are Back In Town*, and a spectacular, ten-minute rendition of the early hit *Wrote for Luck*, during which Bez's two

kids and Shaun's eldest daughter were brought on stage to shake maracas. This was Happy Mondays in sensible mode, perhaps for the first time.

LISA VERRICO

EN

Jonathan Miller's... production looks stunning in sun-baked 1930s settings... and ritzy costumes... *Times*

May 1 | 6 | 12 | 14 | 19 | 27
June 2 | 7 | 11 | 15 | 18
23 | 26 | 28 | 30
July 2 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 | 35 | 36 | 37 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 41 | 42 | 43 | 44 | 45 | 46 | 47 | 48 | 49 | 50 | 51 | 52 | 53 | 54 | 55 | 56 | 57 | 58 | 59 | 60 | 61 | 62 | 63 | 64 | 65 | 66 | 67 | 68 | 69 | 70 | 71 | 72 | 73 | 74 | 75 | 76 | 77 | 78 | 79 | 80 | 81 | 82 | 83 | 84 | 85 | 86 | 87 | 88 | 89 | 90 | 91 | 92 | 93 | 94 | 95 | 96 | 97 | 98 | 99 | 100 | 101 | 102 | 103 | 104 | 105 | 106 | 107 | 108 | 109 | 110 | 111 | 112 | 113 | 114 | 115 | 116 | 117 | 118 | 119 | 120 | 121 | 122 | 123 | 124 | 125 | 126 | 127 | 128 | 129 | 130 | 131 | 132 | 133 | 134 | 135 | 136 | 137 | 138 | 139 | 140 | 141 | 142 | 143 | 144 | 145 | 146 | 147 | 148 | 149 | 150 | 151 | 152 | 153 | 154 | 155 | 156 | 157 | 158 | 159 | 160 | 161 | 162 | 163 | 164 | 165 | 166 | 167 | 168 | 169 | 170 | 171 | 172 | 173 | 174 | 175 | 176 | 177 | 178 | 179 | 180 | 181 | 182 | 183 | 184 | 185 | 186 | 187 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The other crises? What crises?

Keeping Blair's mind on the

Balkans has its price

No Prime Minister can handle more than two crises at the same time. This old Downing Street adage is being tested to the full at present. All crises have opportunity costs — other issues do not receive the attention that they otherwise would. Decisions are not taken, or are fudged.

The domination of Tony Blair's diary by Kosovo has affected the other urgent issue, Northern Ireland. Although closely involved in attempts to break the current stalemate, as he will be again this week, Mr Blair has not been able to devote the time in intensive, face-to-face talks that he did before the Good Friday agreement. He may not be able to achieve a breakthrough, but his personal role is seen as crucial on all sides.

An obvious short-term casualty of Kosovo has been Mr Blair's drive to reform the European Commission. Following the debacle over the resignation of the Commission last month, he was keen to persuade other European leaders to adopt a far-reaching reform programme linked to the appointment of Romano Prodi as President. British ideas for improving internal financial controls are still on the table, but have made little progress because talks among European leaders are dominated by Kosovo. Little is now likely to happen until after the European elections in June — and the Commission takes up office in September.

The domestic impact is clouded by the division of responsibility between Mr Blair and Gordon Brown. The Chancellor is now unchallenged chief executive on most economic, industrial and social issues. Peter Mandelson's resignation four months ago removed the only powerful independent voice, while John Prescott is largely absorbed in his sprawling department. Mr Brown has also taken charge of the Scottish election campaign, determining strategy and having close allies, such as Douglas Alexander, in day-to-day charge of co-ordination. If the latest polls are right, and the Scottish Nationalists are well beaten in ten days' time, that will be Mr Brown's triumph.

Downing Street insiders say that Mr Blair's preoccupation with Kosovo matters less both because departments are busy implementing decisions already taken and because there is now a lengthy period of "purdah" preventing new announcements ahead of the May 6 elections, and then the June 10 European elections. Mr Blair has often talked of 1999 as "the year of delivery". Departments have been set a lengthy list of targets under the public service agreements with the Treasury. But this requires constant prod-

ding from the centre. The intervention of the Prime Minister is often needed to overcome departmental inertia. This is just the time he should become personally involved in sorting out the mess over the future of London Underground. Even in those areas in which Mr Blair is particularly interested, such as

peter.riddell@the-times.co.uk

"Fifteen years ago there were no adverts and no products to advertise. A soft drink was a soft drink and there was only one word for it — water."

Happy milkmaids, fields of corn, golden light and lots of old men vaguely modelled on Leo Tolstoy. This is the surreal image of Russia presented in television ads. Quite how anybody expects people who actually live here to believe that there are robust, rosy-cheeked girls in embroidered shirts happily slopping milk from one pail to the next in some pastoral idyll outside the ring road, I cannot imagine.

Fifteen years ago there was none of this drivel. No adverts, no products to advertise, no spin. Cheese was cheese (in fact there were two sorts — yellow and white), and a soft drink was a soft drink. There was only one word for it — water. Anything non-alcoholic came under this name. You knew where you were.

Then, in 1990, a billboard went up in Pushkin Square. It was huge. On it was a little line-



Hatred past and future

If Nazism echoes from Kosovo to

Brick Lane, racism goes even deeper

I think one has to take it further than Hitler; indeed we may fail to understand the racism that threatens the world's future if we personalised it too much on him. Yet I found Niall Ferguson's article in yesterday's *Sunday Telegraph* very persuasive; he linked the Columbine High School massacre, the Serbian ethnic cleansing in Kosovo and the Brixton bomb to the historic influence of Hitler. Fifty years after his death, Hitler retains his hateful fascination. His personality plays a much larger part in the contemporary world debate than those of the victorious war leaders, Stalin, Churchill or the half-forgotten Roosevelt. The only other European leader to have retained a similar hold on the public imagination 50 years after his death was Napoleon.

The facts are clear enough. The high school massacre was carried out by neo-Nazi fanatics who exchanged "Heil Hitler" salutes with each other and adopted German phrases and trenchcoats as symbols of their Nazi views. They targeted at least one black student because he was black. The group that has claimed responsibility for the Brixton and Brick Lane bombings, Combat 18, apparently takes its name from Hitler's initials: A is the first letter of the alphabet and H is the eighth. The Balkans have a long history of ethnic cleansing; there is an inherent racism in the attitudes of the Serbs and the Albanians towards each other. NATO has used the comparison between Hitler and Milosevic as part of its propaganda.

Tony Blair has been worried for some time that Russia's default last summer and its failure to address its deep economic problems could produce an anti-democratic and aggressively nationalist leadership. These fears have, of course, been fuelled by Kosovo, even though Russia's warnings are more a sign of weakness than of strength.

Mr Blair argued in his Chicago speech on Thursday that the Cologne summit of leading industrial nations in June should adopt a package of trade, technical assistance and substantial financial help.

As Mr Blair argued, Kosovo is only the latest demonstration — others include the Asian financial crisis and transatlantic trade tensions — of increasing global interdependence. He has called for a new "doctrine of international community".

The euphoric days of the end of the Cold War are over. Surmounting these problems is going to take up much of the time of heads of government, as well as being more expensive for their taxpayers.

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racist groups come from the same people who form street gangs, engage in football hooliganism or get involved in fights outside pubs. They are not necessarily poor or unemployed, but many of them have criminal convictions or criminal associations. Some may belong to the ranks of the dropouts and the excluded, as, in his adolescence in Vienna, Hitler did.

Many are simply street bullies, who take into the street attitudes they have already shown in the playground. The Columbine High School killers were obviously intelligent, perhaps highly intelligent. The

facts are clear enough. The original Nazi pattern of intelligent leaders directing street thugs can be regarded as a natural one. If Combat 18 is a large enough organisation to have reached this stage, it is likely to have this pattern of leadership.

In the past 50 years, Britain has seen a number of these groups form, cause trouble, draw attention to themselves, then break up and fade away. Despite Enoch Powell's grim forecast,

Britain has largely remained a stable and racially tolerant community. The Lawrence inquiry argued that racial attitudes in the Metropolitan Police were exceptionally bad. Without questioning the judgement in that case, one could equally argue that race relations in Britain as a whole have remained better than might have been expected. Yet it would not take very long for a terrorist campaign to bring that to an end. London and many other cities are now multi-ethnic communities, and such communities are vulnerable to ethnic tensions.

The Jewish community has a special understanding of the threat. Anti-Semitism is not the only form that racial prejudice takes; indeed, in modern Britain fewer people admit to anti-Semitic prejudice than to anti-black. The Brixton and Brick Lane bombs were not directed against Jews, nor was the Columbine High School massacre, nor is the ethnic cleansing in Kosovo. Yet

anti-Semitism is the classic case of racial prejudice, and the Holocaust is the classic racist event of the 20th century.

No Jew ever believes that anti-Semitism has wholly disappeared. All Jews outside Israel, like all black or Asian people in Europe or America, have to live with the painful knowledge that there are people they meet or work with who feel an intrinsic hostility towards them. They know the little sneers that will be made, the assumptions of racial difference, the stereotyping, the exclusion. And they know how much worse has lain behind that, in medieval British history, in modern European history. Jews do not forget the Holocaust, because they cannot afford to forget. I suspect that most of them think of the Holocaust, for one reason or another, every day. Many think of it more often than that.

The best account of the Holocaust that I have read is Martin Gilbert's book. His first chapter does not open with the Wannsee Conference of January 20, 1942, at which the "final solution" was adopted; indeed, he reaches that conference only on page 230. He starts his book with a quotation from Martin Luther dating from 1543, almost 400 years earlier. This was Luther's "honest advice" on the treatment of Jews.

"First their synagogues should be set on fire," their homes should be "broken down or destroyed", Jews should be "put under one roof, or in a stable, like Gypsies, in order that they may realise that they are not masters in our land". Jews should be put to earn their living "by the sweat of their noses", or should be stripped of their belongings "which they have extorted usuriously from us" and driven out of the country "for all time".

One does not think of Martin Luther, the courageous leader of the Reformation, in the same terms as one thinks of Milosevic, the Columbine High School killers, the London nail bombers, or indeed Hitler.

Nor would it be right to do so. No one who understands and values the Protestant tradition of the individual conscience can fail to see Luther in an heroic light. Yet his attitude to the Jews is atrocious. His anti-Semitism is not as vicious as Hitler's, since he does not recommend that they should all be killed, but he does recommend racial cleansing, burning them out of home and synagogue, herding them into camps, stealing their money, even expelling them "for all time". By 1543 Luther was a man of great public prominence. This was no mere expression of private prejudice.

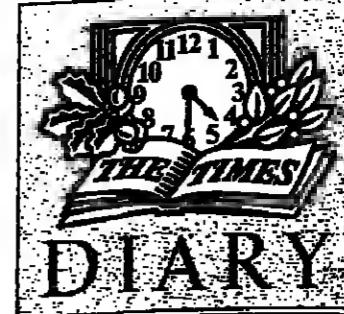
Hitler saw his own anti-Semitism as a species of Darwinism. One may be repelled by this law of nature which demands that all living things should devour one another. The fly is snapped up by the dragonfly, which is itself swallowed by a bird, which itself falls victim to a larger bird... if I can accept a divine commandment, it is this one: thou shall preserve the species." He was talking, at that point, specifically about the Jews, in December 1941, just over a month before the Wannsee Conference.

It is not, I think, the ideologies used to justify racism, whether Christianity or Darwinism, that explain the evil itself. They are rationalisations: anti-Semitism and other forms of racism seem to be a basic human instinct; they show a sense of hostility to the stranger, who is perceived as a threat. Perhaps this is ultimately a Darwinian explanation, since a strong awareness of the potential threat from strangers may have been conducive to survival in the many millennia when man was still a hunter-gatherer.

It is not conducive to survival now. By the end of the 20th century, mankind is armed with many weapons of mass destruction so lethal that they cannot be used for any ordinary purposes of war. Racism, in all its aspects, is the most likely cause of future wars, and it is the present cause of tribal war in Africa and Yugoslavia.

The Lawrence report stated that the Metropolitan Police were "institutionally racist". Perhaps they are. The greater worry is that mankind may be "instinctively racist". If we cannot cure ourselves of that flaw in human nature, the outlook for the next century will be even grimmer than the experience of the century that is passing.

comment@the-times.co.uk



House guest

WITH customary sensitivity, the Oxford Union is to debate "This house believes that racism is inevitable". To lend intellectual force, John Tyndall, the chairman of the British National Party, will be among next month's speakers. From his illustrious party, Combat 18, a group that claimed responsibility for the Brixton bomb, reputedly sprang.

After last term's visit by Jerry Springer, the Union has acquired a taste for tawdry headlines. Tyndall appeared on BBC TV recently supporting repatriation: my man with the clip-on bowtie at the Union says: "We will be more sceptical than on the hustings of the Isle of Dogs. The university police have been informed."

CORONARY-INDUCING antics in Soho, where Damien Hirst, the ageing enfant, has taken to prancing around naked. Regulars at the Groucho are allowed to peruse an album of photos depicting Hirst sans attire. Michael Wojas, from the adjoining Colony Rooms, is weary: "When Damien has had a few glasses next door, he runs in here and says, 'Michael, I'm going to take my clothes off.' He then parades around stark naked, shouting 'what do you think of my body?' I've seen it many times."

■ AFTER poetry became the new pop and gardening the new game, economics is to become the new ergonomic zone. A young Cam-



bridge don (above) has won a record six-figure advance from Random House for a new book, teasingly titled *The Silent Takeover* (which bangs on about how global business rules our lives).

Noreena Hertz, 31, promises to "make economics sexy". She has advised Boris Yeltsin on reform and helped Jordanian and Israeli ministers with the peace process. Literary types such as Ian Trevin agree that it is the largest book deal ever won by an economist.

A TV spin-off is being negotiated with guest stars Bill Gates and George Soros. "Business is going to be the new superpower," Dr Hertz pants, warming to the new lingo.



THE gun attack on Beryl Bainbridge by her mother-in-law is still the stuff of legend, but now the author says she had been subjected to a second assault from her relative, this time with a knife: "By this time I tell my children 'when Granny reaches into her handbag to give you sweets, drop to the floor'."

■ THAT fashionable Soho joint Dell'Ogo (proprietor: Antony Worrell Thompson) has just been graded "high risk" by environmental health inspectors at Westminster council. The restaurant, praised for its animal-loving ethos and frequented by Mo Mowlam, Jonathan Dimbleby and Downing Street sorts, was recently invaded by a giant shrew.

"I was strolling past when a shrew came flying out of the front door and a waiter scurried out after it," says a senior TV producer.

The restaurant's manager responds: "We have gone through our routine inspection and there is no evidence of any rodent activity in the building." I'll stick to the Rioja.

POLITICOS in Brussels have a new threat: Jeremy Paxman's baby brother, Giles Paxman, has been appointed Head of Chancery in the Brussels Embassy, putting him in charge of political relations between the two nations. "He's a lot cleverer than I am — and a lot smoother," Paxo Sr assures me. "He's more of a diplomat." Jeremy admits that he was rejected by the Diplomatic Corps: "I was wisely seen as unsuitable." Nonsense, he is just what the FO needs.

JASPER GERARD

Happy milkmaids, fields of corn, golden light and lots of old men vaguely modelled on Leo Tolstoy. This is the surreal image of Russia presented in television ads. Quite how anybody expects people who actually live here to believe that there are robust, rosy-cheeked girls in embroidered shirts happily slopping milk from one pail to the next in some pastoral idyll outside the ring road, I cannot imagine.

Fifteen years ago there was none of this drivel. No adverts, no products to advertise, no spin. Cheese was cheese (in fact there were two sorts — yellow and white), and a soft drink was a soft drink. There was only one word for it — water. Anything non-alcoholic came under this name. You knew where you were.

Then, in 1990, a billboard went up in Pushkin Square. It was huge. On it was a little line-

Anna Blundy



drawing of a man holding a can. The caption, a ludicrously literal translation of the English, read: "TUP. More a jar of water than a way of life." People stood before it, squinting up in a desperate attempt to extract meaning. This was the start of advertising in Russia.

For at least two years, direct translations of foreign advertisements baffled the Russian populace. "Bounty" — the enjoyment of paradise" did not disclose that there was something to eat beyond the palm-tree wrapper and not a sex aid, as the words suggested. But eventually the economic colonisers got the hang of things and started running faintly 1950s-style ads of the "buy this, it does this and is better than that" type. This went down much better and Russians began to believe that there were differences between cans of drink and the ways of life that went with

them. They were not quite as convinced as their Western counterparts, perhaps Russians in general have a more finely developed sense of irony than we do — but they managed to have a Coke versus Pepsi war nonetheless.

Today, however, it's a new ball game. While the nightmarish "Papa? Nicole?" might not yet be appreciated, Western-style coffee ads are. Nowadays, the idea is to show affluent Russians enjoying the finer things in life. There is a fantastic one in which a girl lets a waifing lover leave messages asking where she is, as she enjoys her delicious cup of coffee in a faintly sexual way.

The thing is, where is she? She cannot be shown in some awful

lose its taste", because that is still selling the West to Russia. They have to sell Russia.

The results are hilarious. This surreal twilight zone country has emerged — happy peasants in fields of gold meet affluent new Russians with cars and country houses. The most toe-curling of these involves a little boy on in-line skates, gliding along a pristine riverbank (no such thing around these parts and anyway, he would fall down a pothole in the pavement and do himself an injury), hand in hand with his Grandpa. I think the boy is wearing a Walkman around his neck and if not, he ought to be.

Grandpa has a long, grey beard and is wearing a belted peasant shirt and shoes made out of reeds. Presumably his son eschewed his simple way of life and became a contract killer or similar (in-line skates are expensive). Anyway, Grandpa is dron-

ing on about how the cathedrals are the heart of Russia (how he came out of Communism looking so well with such stringent religious beliefs is anyone's guess). The boy looks convinced.

The strangest, though, is *Milay Mila* (sweet Lyudmilla), a pretty, buxom mother who goes out into the pale morning light, skips through the dew to her healthy, happy cows and comes home with pails of fresh milk for her eager, early-rising family.

What is so interesting about these ads is that, without exception, they carefully omit the past 75 years. It is as though Russia leapt straight from Tolstoyan paradise to American dream without a glitch. Would that were true — and perhaps with a carton of milk, a stick of chewing gum and an aromatic cup of coffee, it just might be.

comment@the-times.co.uk

من الممكن

APRIL 26

DIARY
House
guest

TIME FOR THE FRONTFLASH

A new neo-Nazi threat based on old hatred

It is the result of fortune alone that no one has been killed in the two nail bomb attacks in London over the past ten days. Although the devices deployed in Brixton and now Brick Lane have been described as unsophisticated, the impact of such explosions at short range would be deadly. These assaults are designed to murder, maim and, above all, terrify the neighbourhoods concerned. Whether they have been organised by Combat 18, the self-styled "Command Council of the White Wolves", or a different extremist faction is immaterial: they obviously represent a direct threat from the far Right and are clearly racist in motivation. The objective is to frighten Asian-British and black-British communities.

This is a serious criminal development and one to which the Metropolitan Police have rightly offered the maximum possible attention and resources. It is important, however, to remember how small the neo-Nazi Right is in this country and how feeble its political prospects are. These are violent acts prosecuted by those with no chance of even a modest degree of power. To intransigent otherwise is only likely to offer warped pleasure to those responsible.

There is no evidence that these attacks represent some sort of "backlash" to the Stephen Lawrence inquiry. This is sheer speculation that attempts to provide logical form for what is at root pure hatred. Organisations such as Combat 18 have been around in various forms for a number of decades. Their membership has never numbered more than a few hundred, most of whom spend relatively little time in their ranks. It is not clear that the Macpherson report has triggered any surge in their popularity.

These attacks may instead be the result of other factors. The ultra-Right in Britain has been engaged in one of its frequent rounds of infighting. The partial introduc-

tion of proportional representation has persuaded parts of the British National Party that it should enter the electoral arena more vigorously and "broaden its appeal", in an implausible attempt to replicate the relative success of the French National Front. This has prompted a realignment and possible radicalisation of the remaining strongly racist sector. The American militia set an example for some of these individuals to follow. The Internet might have provided another means of disseminating information on the construction of crude devices.

The Metropolitan Police have an opportunity not only to arrest those concerned but also lift their standing in the eyes of ethnic minorities. The Macpherson report portrayed a police force seemingly unwilling to recognise a distinct category of racist crime. The reaction of the police over the past week has shown an enormous improvement on past insensitivity. Deputy Assistant Commissioner Alan Fry has dealt with these incidents in a direct manner and adopted a tone that conveys an appropriate sense of urgency. He deserves the widest possible co-operation from the public.

The nail bomb assailants wish not only to sow fear among minority communities but to drive a wedge between them and white residents. The best possible response is not only their swift arrest but an investigation that brings together people of different colours. An increase in the esteem in which the Metropolitan Police are held would be an obviously unintended but extremely welcome consequence of the current bombing campaign. There is not a white "backlash" either to the Lawrence report or to any other aspect of race relations in Britain — although the ultra-Right would love to foment one. As Lyndon Johnson once said, it is time for the "frontlash" to materialise.

WOOLF AT THE DOOR

A legal revolution today that will take some time to judge

Great expectations await the reforms to civil litigation that come into effect today. These changes are based on the recommendations made by Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, in 1996. Then they were hailed as the solution to the protracted and expensive court process which has needed a lawyer at every twist and turn. The Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Laird, has continued this crusade, presenting these reforms as a key part of his broader campaign that includes the controversial Access to Justice Bill, in protest against which the Law Society has today taken out advertisements in the national press.

The expectations that the long-awaited Woolf reforms will transform civil justice into a quick and cost-effective remedy for disputes, accessible to all, are about to be put to the test. The principal theme is that of keeping as much litigation as possible out of the courts by encouraging alternative, or early, resolution of disputes. If the reforms succeed in this, then the costs and time spent in litigation will fall.

The chances of such success lie mainly in the hands of the judiciary. Judges have taken over the responsibility for moving litigation forward, replacing the lawyers acting in the case who were seen to have an interest in prolonging litigation in order to earn more fees. With this responsibility have come new powers to impose stiff penalties on those who prolong disputes. If judges use these powers effectively, litigants will find that fighting to the bitter end does not pay.

This will not happen overnight. These reforms are overhauling civil legal procedure and turning litigants on their heads. Litigators will now be operating in new and unfamiliar territory. Under the new regime of disclosing facts and arguments in advance, the tactics of trial by ambush

will be relegated to the past. At the same time, the traditional lawyers' hammer and tons of procedural rules — studied and practised for years — have been replaced with an entirely new set of instruments. Everybody will be a beginner, and lawyers will be trading cautiously at first, inquiring over every point, and possibly making court hearings themselves even slower than before.

The lawyers' complaint is that these changes have been rushed in too quickly. The legal professions are notoriously reluctant to change their ways. The Bar has been stalling for years over opening up its monopolistic restrictions on who can appear in court. Cynics might view the Law Society's latest attack on the cost-cutting Access to Justice Bill as an attempt to preserve its members' livelihoods.

There is, however, some justification for their protests. The Lord Chancellor has been hurrying his law reforms through Parliament. The Access to Justice Bill was presented to Parliament without the nuts and bolts of how its changes will actually work. Similarly, although Lord Woolf said that his reforms depended on the use of new administrative technology, this will not be in place for another year — seriously jeopardising judges' ability to process their new workload.

Transitional difficulties are, however, inherent to all programmes of change. It would be wrong to judge the effectiveness of these reforms on what may be a sticky start. Nor should the wrinkles and irregularities which will inevitably be found in the new procedure be taken as a sign that it does not work. Every system has its own set of problems. What counts is whether, in the long run, the speed and cost at which people can solve their legal problems improve.

SAFELY MATURE

The cheesemakers smell a Whitehall plot

Cheese and bureaucracy do not mix. As we report today, specialist cheesemakers fear that overpowering bureaucracy might force them out of business as quickly as overripe Camembert provokes exit from the larder. The plight of these small businessmen highlights the dilemma politicians face. At the whiff of a food scare ministers are quick to promise new regulations to lessen the risks of picking up a knife and fork. The result can be bankruptcy for producers, less choice for consumer and, in this case, the death of the runny cheese and the supremacy of the rubbery one.

Only a few weeks ago, the Government was praising the British cheese industry's products, describing them as "some of the finest in the world". Such plaudits are deserved. Britain's cheeseboard reflects the variety of the countryside, speckled with blues and reds, some smoked, others full fat, oozing with flavour.

Yet if the proposed new dairy hygiene rules are implemented, like a green field smothered by a motorway, this rolling calorific delight might disappear under the uniform monotony of slabs of processed cheese. Forcing small producers to send every batch of produce for microbiological testing, for instance, could make creating their delights unprofitable. The difference

between what ministers are saying and planning is, it appears, chalk and cheese.

The cheesemakers smell the whiff of a Whitehall secret agenda, fearing that the regulations will mature into a ban on unpasteurised milk being used to make dairy produce. They argue that runny cheeses, made with untreated milk, cannot be made without bacteria, the enemy of the risk-conscious. Yet far from being beastly bacteria, these are on the side of the angels, fighting off listeria and making the cheese safe to eat. So forcing all producers to heat milk to 72°C — pasteurisation — might be counter-productive, destroying the cheese's natural defence mechanism and its smelly, unique creamy qualities.

Ministers would be guilty of gastronomic vandalism if they allowed their quest for food safety to destroy the variety of the cheeseboard. Flagrant abuses of hygiene regulations should carry a penalty, but do not warrant a wholesale change in those regulations. Eating cheese is a risky business, but so is crossing the road or having a bath. In 1996, 34 people aged between 15 and 64 died from food poisoning, six of whom had listeria, while 83 people died by falling off a chair or out of bed. Politicians should remember the principle of "caveat emptor". Most shopkeepers, like good Cheddars, are mature.

New legal rules 'a shambles'

From Professor I. R. Scott

Sir, On April 26, the Civil Procedure Rules 1998, implementing the reforms to the administration of justice recommended by Lord Woolf, come into force. Doubtless, the Lord Chancellor's publicity machine will be putting out a considerable amount of information extolling the virtues of the new system and emphasising in particular that it will provide faster and cheaper justice.

I doubt whether one will find any hint that the implementation of the new scheme is turning out to be a shambles.

It has been asserted that the Civil Procedure Rules (CPR) constitute a "new procedural code", written in plain English and that they will be readily understood by lawyer and lay-person alike. The truth is that, in many respects, the rules and their supplementing practice directions are an incomprehensible mess.

Errors abound. Additions and changes have been made from week to week as "Woolf day" approached. Many appear to be very important. I say "appear to be" because some of the material put out recently is incomprehensible. Indeed, the further supplementing Practice Direction to Part 8 of the CPR (produced during the first week of this month) is one of the worst examples of procedural drafting I have seen.

As a result of the mismanaged implementation of the new scheme, judges, lawyers, court staff and litigants in person have been placed in an impossible position and recriminations are likely to be fierce. The civil justice system faces a long period of "muddling through", during which much time, effort and money will be spent on trying to operate and manage a procedural system that ought to have been got right well in advance of Woolf day.

Yours faithfully,
I. R. SCOTT,
Faculty of Law,
University of Birmingham,
Birmingham B15 2TT,
scott@law.bham.ac.uk
April 23.

Performance and pay

From Dr Alan B. Shrank

Sir, Why do politicians pursue policies abandoned by those who have introduced them in the past? In trying to force performance-related pay on teachers (letters, April 12 and 19), why have they ignored commerce's disengagement with this policy?

Those who work harder than their colleagues do not do so to receive the incentive, nor do they work harder once it is received. Some not recognised as worthy of extra reward become disillusioned and work less. Overall, the total effort is reduced. Most big enterprises have discovered this and abandoned the policy.

Performance-related pay occupies the valuable time of assessors. Favouritism and blackballing can influence decisions. Ill-feeling is engendered and damages team spirit. In teaching, team spirit is particularly important, since the quality of the school or college depends on the combined efforts of teachers in different subjects and at different levels. To select one or more teachers is invidious.

The key to rewarding workers is to pay them all an attractive salary. This results in higher-quality personnel and a high-quality service.

Yours sincerely,
ALAN B. SHANK
(Vice-President, Hospital Consultants and Specialists Association),
20 Crescent Place,
Town Walls, Shrewsbury SY1 1TQ.
April 20.

Victims of strokes

From Mrs Ruth Hazeldine

Sir, The letter from the Chairman of Council of the Stroke Association and others (April 15) makes an eloquent plea for better provision for stroke patients within the health service. They write as academics and health professionals, while I write as the daughter and granddaughter of victims of stroke.

Anyone who has witnessed the suffering of a stroke victim, and experienced the harrowing sense of helplessness felt by relatives, friends and carers, would support this plea for stroke units to be included in the national priorities guidelines.

Yours sincerely,
RUTH HAZELDINE,
52 Jacksons Lane, N6 5SX.
April 16.

Maritime heroes

From Dr Stanley Solomons

Sir, Captain P. M. Adams states (letter, April 20) that Christopher Columbus and Amerigo Vespucci "crossed unknown oceans when the English were just able to ship wine up the coast from Bordeaux".

Got their priorities right, these old English navigators, it seems.

Yours sincerely,
S. SOLOMONS,
165 West Heath Road, NW3 7TT.
April 20.

Letters by fax to 0171-782 5046.
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Risk of a Balkan wasteland

From Mr George Thomas

Sir, There is not the least fig of legality to our assault on Yugoslavia (John Laughton's article, April 22). We seem simply to have declared that what we decide is right and is the law whether or not the UN or anyone else agrees, and that those countries that do not observe our law must expect to be punished. This century has produced several infamous leaders who thought like that.

At least we should have observed one other law, which is that if you do break the rules because of a "greater good" then you had better be sure some great good comes of it. So far our interference has been a disaster and it might seem the situation could not be worse. But, for once, do we not have a duty to think this through? Will reducing Serbia, outrageous though its behaviour has been, into yet another Balkan wasteland really create a better situation than the one we have today?

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE THOMAS,
17 Campden Hill Square, W8 7JY.
April 22.

From the Director of the Atlantic Council of the United Kingdom

Sir, I do not dispute in any way the rights of Alice Mahon (report and letter, April 21) to exercise her conscience in an independent way as a Labour MP. I do know from personal experience from a visit I made to South Vietnam as a Member of Parliament in 1968 that anything you wrote — as I did for the press — exercising an independent judgment, was nevertheless used unscrupulously by both the South Vietnamese Government and Ho Chi Minh regime.

Although heavily criticised by some members of the Parliamentary Labour Party, I did not regret my visit. A number of newspapers at the time were interested in sponsoring my visit, which I refused. On arrival in Saigon, the South Vietnamese Government arranged my hotel; however, after a short period of time I moved and stayed with the British chargé d'affaires.

I think Alice Mahon made an error of judgment in accepting an invitation to visit Belgrade — including financial backing from a newspaper — when she might have known that her visit would have the effect of strengthening the Belgrade regime's propaganda.

I agree with her that the British public has the right to know the effect of the Nato bombings on the Serbian people. That could be simply rectified

Poverty in South Africa

From Mr Julian Charlton

The brutalisation of the police in South Africa (report, April 21, early editions) is a result not of the recent crime wave but of the apartheid era.

I visited South Africa in 1996 to make a television film on developments there. We went to townships, met aid workers and witnessed vistas of extreme poverty that barely seemed possible. Imagine the recent television images of the camps for Albanian refugees and multiply the number of refugees by the factor of a thousand.

There are literally millions of people living so far below the poverty line in South Africa that they do not even show up on the national register. In addition, I believe, they have been systematically terrorised by the authorities for decades.

When Western politicians talk about the need for jobs and housing it is a standard pre-election promise. When South African politicians talk about the same thing it is a matter of national security. What South Africa needs now is not a better police force but a humanitarian aid mission on a massive scale.

Yours sincerely,
JULIAN CHARLTON,
Newtown Lodge,
Blackrock, Co Dublin.
knutte@iol.ie
April 21.

Millennium bug

From Dr Godfrey Harverson

Sir, I have newly printed from our hospital computer network my report of a recent diagnostic investigation. It bears the date 31 Dec 40.

The monitor gives the year in full as 1840, precisely 100 years before I was born. Could this be an early sighting of the Y2K bug?

Yours,
GODFREY HARVERSON
(Consultant radiologist,
Broomfield Hospital,
Chelmsford, Essex CM1 7ET.
g.harverson@compuserve.com
April 23.

Presumably this cannot be the same Professor Lisa Jardine who, when the Secretary of State for Education 18 months ago voiced his support for the teaching of Latin, was reported in the press as saying: "I cannot believe my ears." On that occasion she confessed that her "blood boils" at the idea of reintroducing "a dead language", rather than computers, into primary classrooms.

Yours sincerely,
A. J. WOODMAN,
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Ancient History,
University of Durham,
38 North Bailey, Durham DH1 3EU.
April 22.

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OBITUARIES

مكتبة من الأصل

ARTHUR BOYD

Arthur Boyd, AC, OBE, artist, died in Melbourne on April 24 aged 78. He was born on July 24, 1920.

I has been said that, after Picasso, Arthur Boyd's oeuvre is the most massive and varied in the history of 20th-century painting. His chief theme was the divine frenzy of love.

If recognition of his artistic stature was slow in Europe despite his huge output, it was partly because he painted pictures with subject matter when abstraction was in the ascendant, and partly because his combination of quiet modesty, acute intelligence and passionate art was not for the salon or cocktail party. He lived compactly in the satisfying circle of an artistic family, and yet he travelled constantly. He was a rare 20th-century visionary who dealt with great themes, both personal and public, without ever losing his sense of place.

Arthur Merric Bloomfield Boyd was born in Murrumbeena, then just outside Melbourne, to a family which had emigrated from Britain in the early 19th century, and which has now produced four generations of artists, writers and musicians. His father, Merric, was one of Australia's first studio potters. His mother, a painter and Christian Scientist, provided an artistic and religious upbringing for her five children, who all became painters, sculptors or potters.

Boyd left primary school at 14 to work in a paint factory owned by an uncle, and briefly attended evening classes in art at the National Gallery of Victoria. In 1936, while living with his grandfather, himself a painter, he began to paint landscapes, well enough to have his first exhibition at 17. These were mainly broadly painted Impressionist views in grey-blues and ochres, but there was already a boldness of attack which was soon to become more Expressionist.

During the 1940s, some of the most urgent, passionate, imaginative and humane art anywhere in the world was being painted in Melbourne, Australia. It was as if only at the furthest distance from the bloodshed in Europe could the world's agonies be handled. The year 1937 had been crucial. In that year, Joel Bergner, a 17-year-old European Jew who had lived in the Warsaw ghetto and who painted in a style influenced by Picasso's Blue Period, arrived in Australia as a refugee. The Russian Cossack Danila Vassilieff, who had fought in the First World War, reached Melbourne by way of the Black Sea, India, China, Queensland, then Brazil, the West Indies, England, France, and Spain; the self-taught Albert Tucker was picking up his own style of Expressionism; Noel Counihan was painting urban scenes with a strong social content, and John Perceval was painting psychological dramas.



Arthur Boyd in Hampstead in 1967, at work on the last of 35 large pictures about King Nebuchadnezzar, for the Adelaide Arts Festival

All these men, along with Boyd, came together to produce what has become known as the 'Angry Decade', 1937-47, throwing the agonies of a suffering world at an Australian society that was still trying to remain isolationist.

Boyd joined the Australian Army Service Corps in 1939, working in Melbourne and Bendigo as a cartographic field surveyor until 1944, but managed to participate in the exhibitions of the Contemporary Art Society from 1942 to 1946. Meanwhile he was developing a personal style, combining Surrealism, symbolism, social realism and Expressionism to create a world of lovers and cripples, beasts and monsters, in scenes of suffering, passionate love and redemption.

After leaving the Army he married Yvonne Lennie, a former art student, in 1945, and set up a pottery business with his sister's husband, the painter Martin Boyd, who followed in 1950 by work on ceramic tiles, and sculpture such as *Saul and David* of 1953.

In 1951 Boyd travelled to Central herd, from the Contemporary Art Society Exhibition on grounds of obscenity. He now began a profound study of the art of Bosch, Breughel and Rembrandt, including not only their subject matter and composition but also the technical beauties of their paintwork. With tempera and oil, sometimes over chalk grounds, and with an abundance of precise detail and mellow radiance of colour, he painted *The Mockers* and *The Mourning* in 1945, and in 1946-47 produced a tour de force of Breughelian and Bosch-like breadth, *The Mining Town*.

Less tendentious than his paintings of religious themes, sexual passion, guilt and betrayal were his Berwick and Wimborne landscapes of 1948-49, which won him the respect of Australia's cultural establishment. A series of murals for his uncle, the novelist Martin Boyd, were followed in 1950 by work on ceramic tiles, and sculpture such as *Saul and David* of 1953.

In 1951 Boyd travelled to Central

Australia, where the poverty and dereliction of the Aboriginal people of the interior corresponded to the maimed and deprived creatures who already peopled his psychodramas of the redemptive powers of love. The trip had a strong impression on Boyd, as he showed in a series of paintings from 1956 entitled *Love, Marriage and Death of a Half-Caste* (often known as the *Bride* series). These Chagall-like allegories feature a part-Aboriginal stockman, who is joined by a naked, spectral bride in a forest clearing.

The first cycle of paintings on this theme was shown at the Australian Galleries in 1959, and filmed by Patrick Ryan and Tim Burstall, bringing Boyd to international attention.

After taking part in the Antipodean Exhibition that year, Boyd left for London with his family. They rented a house in Hampstead Lane as a base for touring Europe, and the next year, 1960 — the year that Sidney Nolan exhibited his *Leda and the Swan* series at the Matieson

Gallery — Boyd had his first London show, at the Zwemmer Gallery. The catalogue had a foreword by Bryan Robertson, who was to advance Boyd's reputation with his exhibition of *Recent Australian Painting* at the Whitechapel Gallery in 1961, and a full retrospective of Boyd's work at the same influential address in 1962.

Boyd next conquered the theatre. A commission for decor and costumes for Stravinsky's ballet *Renard* at the Edinburgh Festival and later at Sadler's Wells was followed in 1963 by stage designs for the ballet *Electra*, with music by Malcolm Arnold and choreography by Robert Helpmann, at Covent Garden and later at the Met in New York.

Like his close friend Sidney Nolan, with whom he was often linked, Boyd found Europe a great stimulus. The feeling of distance which had launched the 'Angry Decade' in Australia was for a time reversed, and Boyd vigorously pursued his Australian themes in Britain.

Then, after several years devoted to the *Half-Caste* cycle, his erotic fantasies of star-crossed, wind-blown lovers — as if in some underworld of the shades from Virgil or Dante — took on the myths and metamorphoses of antiquity and the Renaissance. In 1966 he began the *Nebuchadnezzar* series; in 1968 he made lithographs on the theme of *St Francis of Assisi*, and a collection of tapestries and pastels on the same theme followed.

During the 1970s he published etchings, lithographs and aquatints on *Lysis* and *Narcissus*, and worked on tapestries of *Nebuchadnezzar*. He also illustrated Peter Porter's *Jonah* (1973) and *The Lady and the Unicorn* (1975), and Janet Dailey's translations of Pushkin's *Fairy Tales*.

These works were punctuated by exhibitions at Fischer Fine Art in London, and long and frequent visits to Australia for an increasing number of exhibitions. In 1973 Boyd bought an estate on the Shoalhaven River, where he founded an expanding family enclave, and which became the inspiration for many subsequent sketches and paintings. In Europe, Boyd's base from 1975 was Ramsgate, near Woodbridge in Suffolk, and he also acquired a house near Palaio in Tuscany. Although he loved to travel, he was terrified of flying, and always insisted on going by ship.

Responses to the landscape and natural events around Shoalhaven took more of Boyd's attention in the 1980s, when he acquired another house on the Shoalhaven River, at Bundanon, near Nowra, New South Wales. In 1984 he received a commission for a tapestry for the Parliament House Authority in Canberra, and another to paint 16 canvases for the foyer of the State Theatre at the Victoria Arts Centre, Melbourne.

Meanwhile, his paintings were growing larger, fiercer in colour and broader in their references to contemporary society. This meant that an artist who had long swum against the tide of fashion found himself right at the centre of the younger New Expressionists in the 1980s.

In 1993 Boyd and Sir Sidney Nolan (his brother-in-law since 1976) gave their extensive properties at Bundanon to the Australian public for the creation of a national arts and environment centre. The landscape, including Pulpit Rock, features in many of Boyd's late paintings, and the trust provides places for artists in residence. It is also developing exchange programmes, especially between England, Asia and Australia.

Arthur Boyd was appointed OBE in 1970, AO in 1979 and AC in 1992. He was voted Australian of the Year in 1995.

He is survived by his wife, and by their son and two daughters, all three of whom are painters.

SIR JAMES COBBAN

Sir James Cobban, CBE, former Headmaster of Abingdon School, died on April 19 aged 88. He was born on September 14, 1910.



JAMES COBBAN was one of the last of a generation of headmasters who devoted most of their working lives to a single school. Having learnt much about leadership and administration during the war, he also made a wide contribution to public life.

Born in Scunthorpe, James Macdonald Cobban won a scholarship from Pocklington School to Jesus College, Cambridge, where he took a first in both parts of the Classical Tripos (with the highest mark except for his contemporary, Enoch Powell) and was both Thirwall Medallist and Gladstone Prizeman.

He taught at King Edward VI School, Southampton, and at Dulwich College before serving in the Directorate of Military Intelligence and becoming, as a Lieutenant-Colonel, a Staff Officer with the Control Commission in Germany. After the war he returned briefly to Dulwich, before becoming headmaster of Abingdon, then an undistinguished school of 250 pupils, in 1947. By the time 'The Boss' retired in 1970, it had more than 700 pupils.

Referred to by one general as the best staff officer he had ever had, Cobban arrived at Abingdon with something of a reputation as an administrator. It was said that the filing system he introduced to the school was based on what he

had observed of German military efficiency. Under him, the area of the school's buildings doubled, and when the quatercentenary was celebrated in 1963, Abingdon had become one of the major direct grant schools in the country.

He needed little sleep, and his energy and ideas never flagged.

He remained in the forefront of curriculum development, with innovations in maths, science, classics and music, and he understood the claim to greater freedom among pupils in the Third Form.

Retirement made little odds to him, as he continued to be of service. He was co-chairman of the Direct Grant Schools Joint Committee and deputy chairman of the Schools' Governing

his most easily caricatured mannerisms.

Though small in stature, he had utter self-assurance and was quite unselfconscious, whether observed in his dressing-gown returning from his morning swim, or taking whole-school assembly in the open air on a cold winter's day, or teaching Greek with a combination of Moussou and Tugouwou (music and movement) which would have delighted Plato — and even pleased the Third Form.

Retirement made little odds to him, as he continued to be of service. He was co-chairman of the Direct Grant Schools Joint Committee and deputy chairman of the Schools' Governing

Bodies Association; chairman of the governors of St Helen's, Abingdon, and a governor of Stowe, Wellington College and others. He chaired the Abingdon bench of magistrates and served on the Oxfordshire Magistrates' Courts Committee and that of the Thames Valley Police Authority.

He represented the Diocese of Oxford in the House of Lords on the General Synod and was vice-president of the Oxford Diocesan Synod, as well as chairman of the Laity Challenge Fund. He was one of those responsible for selecting ordinands for the Church of England and was himself a lay reader. He officiated at a group of six Dorset parishes from 1986 to 1997.

Cobban, who had become a JP in 1950, became Deputy Lieutenant of Berkshire in 1966 and, under reorganisation, of Oxfordshire in 1974. He was appointed CBE in 1971 and knighted in 1982. In 1986 a party was held to celebrate 50 years of continuous publication of his Latin reader *Civis Romanus*, which he wrote with a colleague at Dulwich and which had sold nearly half a million copies (paying for the education of four daughters). The two authors and the original commissioning editor were all present.

He married Lorna Marlow in 1942, but she died in 1961, and their only son also died when very young. His sister gave up her job as a primary school headmistress to support him at Abingdon. He is survived by her and his four daughters.

BRITISH GRIP ON HILL 60

During the last few days the area south-east of Ypres has continued to be the centre of interest, and the narrative of the fighting there will be given up to the night of Wednesday, the 21st.

Hill 60, of which the Germans held the crest, was seized with innumerable trenches and saps. At 7pm on April 17 seven mines were fired simultaneously under the German trenches. The interval that elapsed before our assault took place was — to use the words of one soldier — "like a transformation scene." Trenches, parapets, sandbags disappeared and the whole surface of the ground assumed strange shapes — here torn into huge craters, there forming mounds of fallen debris.

As the reports of explosions died away, and while the dense columns of smoke and dust still hung in the air, our men, led by their officers, sprang from the trenches and rushed across the intervening space of some 40 to 60 yards between

ON THIS DAY

April 26, 1915

For five days a battle raged for possession of a small hill on the Ypres front. Attack and counter-attack followed in quick succession to gain a piece of land about 250 yards by 200. Hill 60 was finally taken by the British but with heavy losses.

Our line and the gaping craters before them, the front covered by the attack being only some 250 yards in length. Many of the German soldiers were surprised in their shirt sleeves. Stunned by the explosions, suddenly subjected to a rain of hand-grenades, thrown by our bombing parties, they gave way to panic. Cursing and shouting, they were falling over one another and fighting in their hurry to gain the exits into the

communication trenches; and some of those in rear, maddened by terror, were driving their bayonets into the bodies of their comrades in front.

Of all this our infantry had but a momentary glimpse before they fell upon the enemy with the bayonet, burst through the maze of trenches, poured into the craters, and pressed on down the communication trenches until at last they were stopped by barricades defended by bomb throwers. The first line of trenches over the front assaulted was captured in a few minutes, with little difficulty, and 15 prisoners fell into our hands. But it was then that the real struggle began, for the Germans quickly recovered from their surprise.

From our line the hill is a salient exposed to fire from three sides, and it was only a few moments before the German gunners took advantage of this fact and opened fire. Soon the whole position became obscured in the smoke of bursting shells. Meanwhile our batteries had begun to support the attack, and a terrific artillery fire was maintained far into the night.

Lord Killanin, former President of the International Olympic Committee, died yesterday aged 84. He was born on July 30, 1914.

MICHAEL MORRIS, 3rd Baron Killanin, was a versatile Irishman who achieved distinction in several different spheres, not least as President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in one of its most turbulent periods, 1972-80.

He came from an old Roman Catholic landed and merchant family, long settled in Galway. His grandfather had been Lord Chief Justice of Ireland, and later a law lord who was created a hereditary peer. His father was killed in action in 1914, so Killanin succeeded as a peer while still a minor in 1927 on the death of his uncle.

He was educated at Eton, Magdalene College, Cambridge (where he was president of Footlights) and the Sorbonne. As he had edited *Varsity*, it was a natural progression for him to enter journalism. He was a war correspondent in the Sino-Japanese War, and later a lively political columnist with the *Daily Mail*. He was also one of the authors of *Four Days*, which described the reaction in various capital cities to the Munich Crisis.

During the war he served with the Queen's Westminsterers and took part in the D-Day landings. Afterwards he married Sheila Dunlop, and returned to Ireland. He was determined not to be separated from the mainstream of Irish life. His few speeches in the Lords had shown him sympathetic to Irish nationalism aspirations.

He worked on many committees, was a director of several companies, and produced a number of films with John Ford. For many years he was president of the Irish Club in London, and he also helped to promote the Dublin Festival Theatre. He also found time to write. His book on Godfrey Kneller, while not a scholarly contribution, served to revive interest in a figure overshadowed by his contemporaries Gainsborough and Reynolds. Killanin also collaborated with Michael Duignan on *The Shell Guide to Ireland*.

As an Olympic administrator he displayed considerable diplomatic gifts. He was president of the Irish Olympic Council from 1950, and a member of the IOC from 1952. In 1966 he became chief of

LORD KILLANIN



protocol, and two years later he rose to be vice-president. He stood for a modern, flexible approach (not least on amateur status) and his patriotic background helped him to push through reforms. His philosophy was to put the competitor first and to ensure that the Games were open to the maximum possible number of athletes. What he really wanted was a reduction of nationalism in the Games, and he was for a long time a lone voice advocating the abolition of flags and anthems. He was also a consistent advocate of the admission of China, which he finally achieved.

It had been thought that Killanin's predecessor as President of the IOC, Avery Brundage, who held office for 20 years, had had a difficult time, but Killanin's experience, though spanning only eight years, was even more trying. He hardly had time to savour his election to the presidency at Munich in 1972 before the Games there were marred by the tragedy that overtook the Israeli team at the hands of the Palestinian guerrillas — an early reminder of his unnerving responsibilities.

Later that year a crisis arose over the 1976 Winter Olympics, when Denver, the city originally chosen, withdrew. This was unprecedented and could have presented the new President with an insoluble problem had the Austrians not come to the rescue with an offer to host the Games again at Innsbruck, where the 1964 Winter Olympics had been held.

Nevertheless, 1976 was a severe trial because little went right for the Montreal Games that summer. Industrial action left the preparations seriously behind schedule and created doubts about whether the city could be ready in time. In the end all was well so far as the facilities were concerned, but two political developments offered new threats.

Late in the day, the Canadian Government refused to allow competing in Moscow, which was successful, but Margaret Thatcher's attempt to keep Britain in step were a failure, with the exception of a few sports of Conservative flavour. In all more than 80 of the 150 or so nations in the Olympic movement competed in Moscow. Of the remainder, about 40 supported the boycott and others stayed away for other reasons.

Killanin had availed the worst, and realised his ambition of bringing China back into the Games, as well as improving the IOC finances, but his touching faith in the power of sport to promote peace was, in the end, disappointed. His memoirs, *My Olympic Years*, were particularly critical of Jimmy Carter. He is survived by his wife, three sons and a daughter.

THE TIMES TODAY

MONDAY APRIL 26 1999

NEWS

Racist bombers 'will strike again'

■ Police fear the neo-Nazi racists who planted nail bombs in Brixton and Brick Lane will strike again in other cities, and possibly against Jewish targets.

As Scotland Yard drafted extra detectives into the anti-terrorist branch yesterday and stepped up the hunt for the bombers, Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, said there was a constant danger until the "extremely evil, unpleasant" criminals and terrorists were caught..... Pages 1, 4, 5, 20, 21

Refugees find a haven in Britain

■ A small boy stepped hesitantly off a set of aircraft steps to become the first Kosovan from the Balkan refugee camp to arrive on British soil. The unfamiliar airport at Leeds and the waiting pressmen were all a little too much for Alben Maksuti, 4, and he needed a guiding hand from a member of the ground staff to steer him towards an airport bus and a future which nobody can yet predict..... Pages 1, 8, 9, 10, 20

Clinton fumbles

An unexpected threat to world security cropped up when President Clinton forgot to take with him the briefcase containing the secret electronic launch codes for US nuclear missiles..... Page 1

Hague defiant

William Hague delivered a "like it, or lump it" message to his Tory critics as he prepared to take the break with his party's Thatcherite past a stage further. He said if colleagues' feathers had been ruffled, they would have to "get unfurled"..... Page 2

Love child

Woody Allen and his young bride, Soon-Yi Previn, played the proud parents at the weekend when they paraded their new baby girl up New York's fashionable Madison Avenue in a pram..... Page 3

DJ suspended

Johnnie Walker, 55, the Radio 2 disc-jockey, has been suspended from his job after allegations that he took cocaine and offered to supply prostitutes..... Page 3

Traders' plight

Specialist cheese makers are threatening to close their businesses and even to move abroad unless the Government's "hygiene police" relaxes enforcement of strict dairy controls..... Page 13

Murder was planned

A meticulous diary found at the weekend shows that the Columbine High School shootings were planned for up to a year down to the last detail, including hand signals used by the gunmen to maximise their carnage..... Page 14

Back from the grave to raise BBC

The TV comedy *One Foot in the Grave* is being raised from the dead to help solve the BBC's sitcom crisis. BBC executives have commissioned a new series of the highly successful show, the first for five years, only weeks after Peter Salmon, the BBC 1 controller, announced that the corporation was killing off the "suburban net-curtain comedy"..... Page 7



Lucy, a French bulldog, awaits her turn in the best-dressed competition in the Spring Fling Pet Contest in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania

BUSINESS

BT expands: British Telecom and its American partner are spending £1.2 billion to take a stake in a Japanese telephone network..... Page 48

Carpetbagging: Investors and borrowers of the Bradford & Bingley building society are expecting to qualify for windfall gains of more than £1,000 after a motion calling for conversion to plc status is announced today..... Page 48

Protection: The group of Seven industrial countries is likely to agree to a package of reforms to the International Monetary Fund..... Page 48

Motorists in Northern Ireland: Motoring in Northern Ireland is to be liberalised after Stormont's Stormont Assembly votes to end the ban on private car imports..... Page 48

BT suspends

Johnnie Walker, 55, the Radio 2 disc-jockey, has been suspended from his job after allegations that he took cocaine and offered to supply prostitutes..... Page 3

New battle group

Britain is expected to increase its military commitment to the Kosovo operation by a significant amount with a third 2,000-man armoured battle group, another squadron of eight Harrier GR7s and an extra frigate..... Page 8

TECHNOLOGY

Lisa Armstrong: "The cognoscenti now appreciate that innovation doesn't come only in the form of a one-sleeved jacket, or heels of different heights, but that it can also take the shape of a gentle ripple of pin-tucks on a sleeve or the shoulder straps on a wrap."..... Page 15

Political portraits: "John Redwood is running about in jaunty clothes, his features swathed in a manic grin. He has just stood against Major and is delighted with the publicity. The more he tries to appear normal, the madder he looks." George Walden's memoirs..... Pages 16, 17

Popular opera: The Royal Opera's entertaining production of Benjamin Britten's 1941 "American operetta", *P洵 Bunyan*, is revived at Sadler's Wells..... Page 19

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

ARTS

What makes Cate Blanchett smile these days? Starring in the Hollywood film, *Pushing Tin*

LAW

How the small claims court left me with big legal bills: the story of a rueful litigant

FORECAST

French treat: More than 5,000 people are packing the Pont des Arts in Paris to see dozens of giant sculptures created by Ousmane Sow, the Senegalese physiotherapist turned sculptor..... Page 18

Pop reunion: Happy Mondays' return to the touring circuit turned out to be a pleasant surprise for fans in Manchester..... Page 18

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THE TIMES MONDAY APRIL 26 1999

مكتبة الأحوال

FA Carling Premiership: O'Leary's young side displays richness of its potential

Leeds stake claim as pretenders to throne

IN THE midst of their increasingly gripping struggle to dominate the present, Manchester United got a worrying glimpse of the future at Elland Road yesterday when a vibrant Leeds United side, buzzing with youthful energy and precocious skills, took them to the limits of their endurance. It may be too late for David O'Leary's side to enter the championship contest, but they played with such verve and commitment that recent suggestions that their evolution is following a similar path to the one masterminded by Alex Ferguson gained considerably more credence.

In the process of dashing Mancunian hopes of returning to the top of the FA Carling Premiership, they also made a bold statement of intent. Ferguson has Arsenal and Chelsea to worry about this season, but this was a warning that next year, and in years to come, Leeds will be more concerned with emulating them than frustrating them.

Even if Manchester United were some way short of their best, even if the heroics of the past two weeks appeared to have taken their toll on David Beckham and Dwight Yorke in particular, a Leeds side that contained six players under the age of 21 did more to expose their fatigue than many others could have done.

They had one piece of good fortune, when Yorke missed a chance to win the match with what was, literally, the last kick of the game, blazin

g his shot high over the bar after a one-two with Teddy Sheringham — but they had proved by then that they deserved their luck.

Hasselbaink and Alan Smith were a constant source of discomfort to David May, a late replacement for Jaap Stam, and Wes Brown. At the back, Jonathon Woodgate was a commanding, unflustered presence who will surely become a full England regular sooner rather than later.

Kewell had given the first hint of what was to come in the third minute, when he skipped past a lung from Keane and crossed deep to the back post, where the unmarked Bowyer should have done better than to head on to the roof of the net. Leeds went close again in the eleventh minute, when May failed to clear Bowyer's cross and Smith thumped his shot into Schmeichel's chest.

Smith wasted an even better chance two minutes later after Kewell had caused havoc and slipped a pass out to the right of the area. Smith, usually a deadly finisher, dragged his shot wide.

Leeds's single moment of anxiety in the first half came when Beckham's corner squirted through to

the far post, where May tried to prod it in. Martyn, flat on his back, kicked it away and then did so again when Cole stabbed it goalwards.

Kewell missed another chance when he glanced a header wide from a corner by Harte corner, but he made amends soon after that by creating the opportunity that put Leeds ahead. He picked the ball up just inside the Manchester United half after a careless pass from Butt had eluded Keane. When he reached the edge of the area, he threaded a pass through to Hasselbaink and the Dutch forward tricked Schmeichel into thinking that he was going to try to take the ball round him before squeezing his shot inside him and in off the post.

However, the visitors did not buckle. They dragged themselves back into the game at the start of the second half and equalised in the 55th minute, when Keane's cross was met by Butt. Martyn parried

his header and Cole forced it over the line from close range, injuring Woodgate at the same time.

After that, the frenetic pace of the game slowed and the chances became fewer. Smith failed to make the most of a slip by Brown 13 min-

utes from the end, shooting straight at Schmeichel, but if Yorke had scored in injury time, defeat would have been hard for Leeds to swallow. O'Leary, who signed a new five-year contract worth an estimated £6 million yesterday morning,

had no thoughts of gratitude or relief, merely determination to continue the pursuit of Manchester United next season.

"I have got a fantastic group of young lads here," O'Leary said. "They can cope with the big occasions, don't worry about that. They want to play on the big stage, believe me. United are our yardstick and in the years to come we will be chasing them and hounding them, home and away."

Ferguson's consolation, perhaps, is that Arsenal and Chelsea have still to negotiate Leeds in their own run-ins. King-makers this season, they may yet be the kings before long.

LEEDS UNITED (4-3-3): N Martin — M Jones, J Woodgate (sub D Wetherall), S Menini, L Reddick, I Harte — L Bowyer, O Butt, S McPhail — H Kewell, A Smith, J F Hartson (sub P Cole). MANCHESTER UNITED (4-4-2): P Schmeichel — G Neville, W Brown, O May, O Keane (sub P Neville), 72) — D Beckham (sub P Scholz), 84) P Keane, N Butt, J Blomqvist (sub E Sheringham), 77) — A Cole, 62) R Keane (sub E Gallagher).

Scotland affected by injury crisis

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

CRAIG BROWN, the Scotland manager, was pondering his options yesterday as injury problems mounted within his squad ahead of the international against Germany, the European champions, in Bremen on Wednesday.

David Hopkin, the Leeds United midfield player, missed the FA Carling Premiership game against Manchester United yesterday with an ankle injury. Craig Burley, of Celtic, is doubtful after picking up a knee injury in the 1-0 defeat by St Johnstone on Saturday and Jackie McNamara, his team-mate, could also be ruled out with a similar problem.

Billy Dodds, who scored twice for Dundee United in a 2-2 draw away to Dunfermline Athletic on Saturday, is likely to spearhead the attack with Don Hutchison, who scored for Everton in their 4-1 win against Charlton Athletic in the Premiership. Paul Ritchie, the Heart of Midlothian central defender, could make his international debut.

Dietmar Hamann, the Newcastle United midfield player, has been named in the Germany squad and Erich Ribbeck, the coach, has also included several players from the Bayern Munich squad that faces Manchester United in the European Cup final next month. Oliver Kahn, the Bayern goalkeeper, Markus Babbel and Lothar Matthäus, the defensive pairing, Jens Jeremies and Thomas Strunz, who play in midfield, and Carsten Jancker, the striker, are all available. However, Lars Ricken, the Borussia Dortmund midfield player, has a thigh injury.

Duncan Ferguson, the Newcastle forward, has been told to resume full training after consulting a specialist about his debilitating groin injury. He had been feared that he might miss the remainder of the season, after a fleeting appearance in Newcastle's FA Cup semi-final victory over Tottenham Hotspur.



Hasselbaink squeezes his shot past Schmeichel, the Manchester United goalkeeper, to put Leeds United ahead at Elland Road yesterday



Cole, right, and Jones get in a tangle as Yorke looks on yesterday

You don't have to be famous, you don't have to be important, you don't have to be rich, you don't have to be a chairman of a huge conglomerate, you don't have to be blue blooded, you don't have to be beautiful, you don't even have to be Irish. Because at Aer Lingus we believe everyone is a VIP.

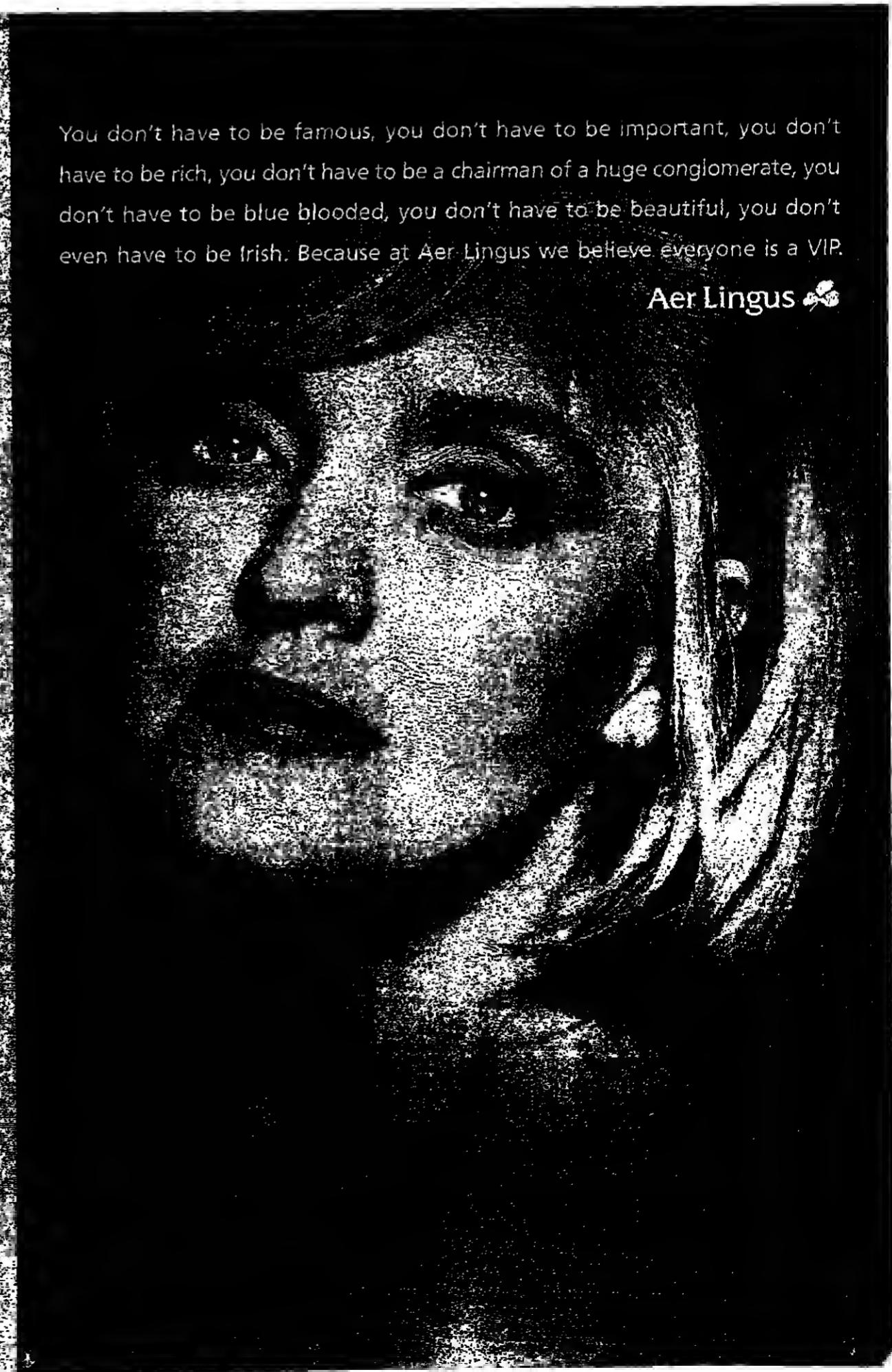
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FA Carling Premiership: Relegation picture clears as Forest drop and Everton pull away

Blackburn look ill-equipped for moment of truth

BRIAN KIDD has scoured Europe to keep up to date with the latest coaching innovations. But there is nothing that Ajax, Barcelona or Juventus can come up with that can help now. His management has been stripped to its essence — the ability of one man to motivate 11 others.

The injury list, long and horrendous, means that there is a little that he can do to refresh his Blackburn Rovers team. Confidence is plunging and luck is running against them. Yet, somehow, this week he must try to bring about a transformation before they travel to Charlton Athletic, where defeat could be a prelude to dropping out of the FA Carling Premiership. This is a match to be watched from a hiding place behind the sofa.

Kidd, a talented coach, is being asked tactical questions that are tying him in knots. A genial man, the Rovers manager is being stretched to snapping point, and midway through the first half on Saturday, it appeared that his agitation had boiled over into rage. With his defence already traumatised by a laughable first goal, Kidd became incensed by the provocative touchline antics of Phil Thompson, the Liverpool coach, after an accidental foul by McTeer on Riedle. It did not take a lip-reading expert to guess that the Middleton Middleweight was offering the Liverpool Lip "outside".

"It was just something from the Manchester United and Liverpool old days," Gérard Houllier, the Anfield manager, said. "It made me laugh more than anything." But Kidd, despite an apology from Thompson, was still glowering a long time later. "You had better ask Thompson about it," he snapped.

Kidd's mood may grow darker still because, with four games to save Rovers from relegation — including a visit from Manchester United — only someone with Jack Walker's riches would bet on them surviving. They refused to buckle in the second half and even had enough chances



LIVERPOOL 3
By Matt Dickinson

to salvage a point, but the incompetence with which they went 3-0 down after 32 minutes suggested that they are on a course set for disaster.

Tragedy, farce, melodrama. There was a bit of everything from Darren Peacock in a mesmerising display. His back pass to John Filan after 22 minutes was unique, dying chest-high at the Rovers' goalkeeper, who could neither catch it nor whack it into the stands. Steve McManaman, who was standing only five yards away, needed only to slide in as the goalkeeper slipped and fumbled having received what they call in rugby union a "hazardous pass".

There was little that Rovers could do about Liverpool's second in the 31st minute, apart from stopping them passing from the back, shutting down McManaman as he moved down the right flank and closing in on Jamie Redknapp before he unleashed his right-foot shot from 25 yards.

The third goal, a minute later, featured even more inept defending. Peacock and

RELEGATION RUN-IN

	P	W	O	L	F	A	Pts
COWENTRY	35	10	7	18	35	49	37
BLACKBURN	34	7	11	16	35	49	32
CHARLTON	35	7	11	17	37	52	32
SOUTHAMPTON	35	8	8	19	31	63	32
NOLM F.	35	4	9	22	30	68	31

BLACKBURN ROVERS: May 1: Wimborne (h), May 8: Derby (a); May 15: Leeds (h)
CHARLTON: May 1: Charlton (a); May 8: Nottingham Forest (h), May 15: Manchester United (h), May 22: West Ham (a); May 29: Newcastle (a)
CHARLTON: May 1: Charlton (h), May 8: Aston Villa (a), May 15: Sheffield Wednesday (h), May 22: Wigan (a); May 29: Middlesbrough (a)
SOUTHAMPTON: May 1: Leicester (h), May 8: Wimborne (a), May 15: Everton (h)



Kidd is wondering whether the tide will turn in time for his Blackburn team

McAtee, who appeared to be waiting for the No 37 bus, suddenly decided to rush for it and succeeded only in colliding, allowing Leonhardsen to break through and score.

"At a time when you can question what attitude the players will have, they went out and showed they wanted to win for the fans," Houllier said, although the Liverpool camp should be wary of too much backslapping.

They played well in patches, with Leonhardsen, McManaman and Thompson buzzing around just behind Riedle, but can Houllier really be certain that they would have done so had they not been denied such an early and impregnable lead?

Meanwhile, Kidd sought solace in his side's performance in the second half, during which they pulled a goal back through Damien Duff's 18-yard volley in the 63rd minute and went close to a second on several occasions.

Nevertheless, it is evident that desperate circumstances are forcing players on to the pitch when not match-fit. These include Henchoz, who grimaced with pain from a groin strain, and Gallagher, who was understandably subdued on his first start since last year.

Admirably, Kidd is still attempting to see the bigger picture and talking of redeveloping the club and nurturing its roots. "I worked my way up from the youth at Manchester United over more than ten years, so I have seen how it can happen on and off the pitch," he said — but he will know that it is the minor details that count at this stage of the season, such as Wilcox playing out of position and Ward struggling to hold up the ball. Blackburn cannot afford fragility of mind or body when they take that desperate ride into The Valley.

BLACKBURN ROVERS (4-4-2): J Flanagan; S Johnson, S McManaman, S O'Connor, D Odemwingie; S Murphy, S McManaman, L Campbell, J Wilcox, D Duff — K Gallagher, A Ward

LIVERPOOL (4-4-1): B Friedel — R Song (sub: B T Nwankwo, 63); J Carragher, S Staunton, D Higginbotham, O Thompson, O Leondres, S Pocock, J Barnes, S Carragher, K Peacock (sub: S Dundas, 79); Referee: R Hams

Football feast offers little nourishment

THERE are certain combinations that simply do not gel, no matter how worthy the individual ingredients. Just as sun-dried tomatoes should not be paired with chips, nor, under any circumstances, anchovies with custard, so professional sport makes for uneasy digestion when, for one side at least, nothing is at stake.

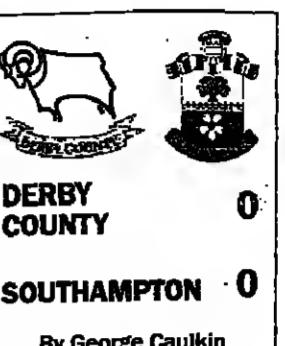
Fusion football leaves an unpleasant taste: Derby County, vastly superior but mired in the apathy of having so little to play for; Southampton, desperate to wriggle free of the sweaty clutches of relegation, seeping confidence and lacking quality. No goals, no fun and a side-order of ham-fisted effort.

It was a result that sated the appetite of neither, even if the wounds inflicted upon Blackburn Rovers and Charlton Athletic made Southampton's point glitter like a trophy. It was illusory, however. Even if they were to finish fourth from bottom in the FA Carling Premiership — which, laughably, in the circumstances, Dave Jones described as "the best in the world" — another season of strain and purgatory beckons.

In the confines of this quite dreadful exhibition, that prospect appears no closer this morning. "We expected Southampton to come after us, because they needed to win, but they didn't," Jim Smith, the Derby manager, shrugged. Seven consecutive defeats away from home have palpably curbed all adventure, all but the most defensive sensibilities, but this was a match that could have offered more.

By the end of a dispiriting afternoon, only the feline form of Neil Moss soared above the general morass. On three occasions in a lopsided second-half — a marked improvement on the first, nonetheless — the Southampton goalkeeper flung himself at the feet of his aggressors. Twice, Dean Sturridge, the substitute, was repelled in this manner, while a fortunate knee blocked a stubbed shot from Darryl Powell.

"I would have preferred all three points, which would have taken us out of the bottom three, but you can't have



everything," Jones said, neglecting to mention that something, anything, would have sufficed.

"I've got to be happy with a clean sheet, the way we battled and threw ourselves in front of the ball. It's still very light, but we've got to make sure that, when we play at home next week, we don't let all this hard work go to waste."

It will be different at The Dell, of course, even if Leicester City, Southampton's forthcoming opponents, are another team already mentally packing their suitcases for the summer. At their own compact ground, Southampton have not lost since Boxing Day. Perhaps the elusive Man Le Tissier will have recovered from the convenient calf strain that prompted his absence on Saturday. Perhaps the sun will shine. Perhaps there will be no more war, policemen will wear daisies in their hair and burger vans will declare a mortatorium on GM foods.

At Pride Park — even the name was a mocking irony — all Southampton got was a couple of half-chances from Martians Pahars, the Latvia striker. There was a long-range shot well saved by Mart Poom, a penalty appeal that died in the throat and a precise grass-cutting cross from James Beattie, which Pahars, in a whirl of limbs, contrived to miss. He made a meal of it all right, but the tastebuds hardly tingled.

DERBY COUNTY (3-4-2): M Poom — S Hines, H O'Connor, J Lauren — S Brano, L Jones, S O'Brien, J Bannister — D Riddle, M Beck, Dabu — R Doherty, G St John — P Wandsworth, O Button — Referee: K Harper

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te, was repelled in this man-

ner, but not see his handball.

Darryl Powell added another from a difficult angle after his first shot was blocked.

In the second half, he combined

with Francis Jeffers before glanc-

ing Everton's third with a header.

Scot Gemmill, a cheap and tell-

ing purchase by Smith, initiated a

counter-attack 15 minutes from

time. Campbell gathered posses-

sion and strode down the middle

of the pitch but it was the move-

ment of Jeffers, 18, that delighted.

Instead of breaking, predictably,

on the face of a defence that was

distracted by the advancing Camp-

bell and accepted a pass on the

right of the penalty area to score.

Charlton's thoughts turned to

the necessity of beating Black-

burn Rovers next weekend. Noth-

ing could peevve the opposition. When

Graham Stuart did convert a pen-

alty, there was a cordial reaction

from the stands for a former Ever-

ton player.

BLACKBURN ROVERS (3-4-2): T Myre — C Shi-ko, S O'Brien, D Bannister, D Hutchison, M Ball — A. J. Jefferis, J. Bannister — D Riddle, G St John — P Wandsworth, O Button — Referee: K Harper

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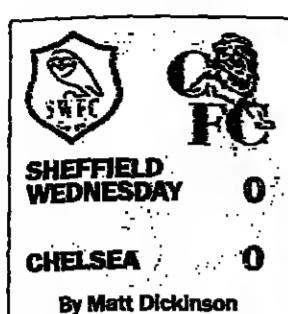
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WEARY acceptance overcame Chelsea yesterday. They had not even pulled out of Hillsborough before Gianluca Vialli started talking about plans for next season. His players are already ticking off the days before they will be able to hit the beach.

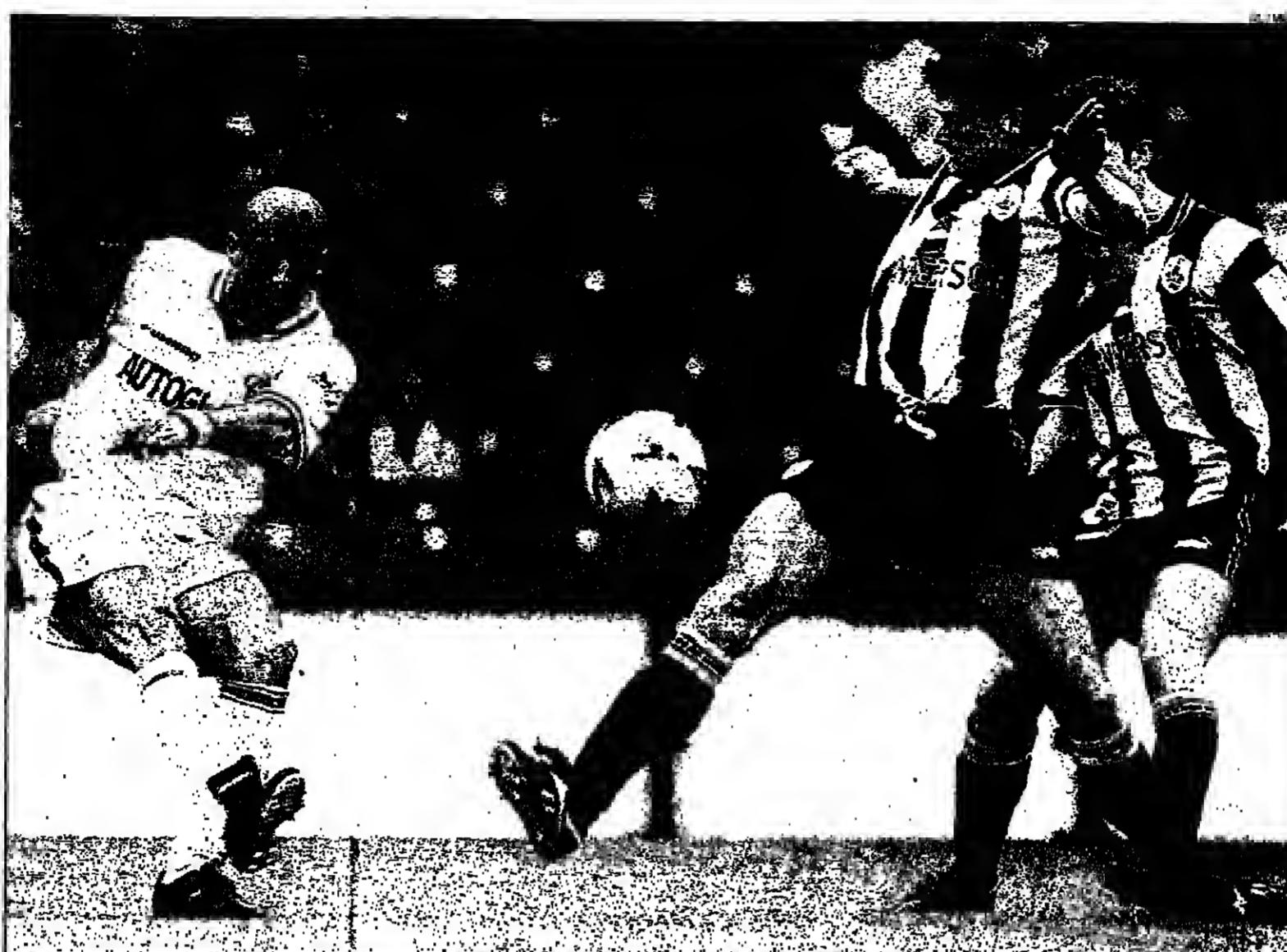
While Manchester United maintain the attack on three fronts, one is proving too many for Vialli's side, who continue to cling to third place in the FA Carling Premiership rather than grabbing it with any certainty. They looked a tired team yesterday, lacking width, pace and the ability to produce the unexpected. Their only consolation was that Leeds United had not made up any ground. Just when they should be flying, Chelsea are playing with their wings clipped.

David O'Leary's side travel to Stamford Bridge next week and a draw should be enough for Chelsea to keep them at arm's length in the race for the European Cup. A top-three finish is nothing to be ashamed of for a club that is on a steady rise, but the deflating finale to their season has emphasised only how far they still have to travel rather than how far they have come.

"It is about Manchester United and Arsenal now," Vialli said after his side's third Premiership draw in succession, "and I think that, with the tough games that United still have to play, Arsenal may be slight favourites."

"It is down to those two because we have just not been able to get the wins recently. We are in a better shape than last year, but there is still a way for us to go."

His team yesterday was substantially different from that which lost to Real Mallorca in the Cup Winners' Cup on Thursday, but the method was just as mundane. Vialli paired himself with Mikael Forsell in



Vialli, the Chelsea player-manager, who restored himself to the team at Hillsborough yesterday, tries a snap shot, only to have it blocked by Jonk.

the starting line-up, but they could summon no more verve than Flo and Zola had in the 1-0 defeat in Spain. "Where is the goalscorer," went up the cry—it is the epitaph to their title campaign.

Forsell disappeared at half-time, if he had not done so already, to be replaced by Zola, but there was something horribly rudimentary about this Chelsea display. Desai, who had been switched into midfield, went through the motions. Wise's promptings came to nought more often than not, while Poyet was taken off on the hour shortly after heading wide one of his team's best chances of the game. Indeed, if anybody was go-

ing to triumph, it was Wednesday, who grew more confident as the game went on, while Chelsea, for whom Kevin Hitchcock deplored in goal, flagged.

Their chances became increasingly tempting, the best falling to Des Walker in the closing moments, but the former England defender went for it in the style of a man who had not scored in 26 previous games for the club. He scuffed the ball all of five yards goalwards, but he need not have felt embarrassed. Exceptional throughout, he had no difficulties subduing Vialli, whose frustration became more evident with every agonised cry.

Walker was the springboard for Wednesday's sprightly second half, in which Mark McKinney, a left winger making his debut two years after joining the club from Peterborough United, showed promising touches, even if, like his teammates, he failed to also display a nose for goal.

"I thought we were going to get the winner as the game went on," Danny Wilson, the Wednesday manager said, "because that is the best we have played for a long time. I thought the players answered a lot of criticism. We probably need one more point to be safe, but it was important getting a confidence boost against a team as good as Chelsea."

While Chelsea cannot afford to neglect their European ambitions over the remaining four games, Wednesday have some of their own. Uefa's bizarre ruling over English qualification may yet provide a "fair-play place" for the team in the FA Carling Premiership with the best disciplinary record and Wilson's side remain in pole position, with only one booking added to their tally yesterday.

"You have to have a lot of sympathy for a team like West Ham, who have done it week-in and week-out and might not qualify," Wilson said, "but that is nothing to do with us. If they [Uefa] want to give it to us, I will take it with both hands."

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (4-4-2): P. Stretton — P. Atherton, E. Thomas, D. Walker, D. Anderson (sub: A. Naseem, 73min), T. Shawcross, S. Friend, D. Grimes — D. Wilson (sub: M. McKinney, 46). **CHELSEA** (4-4-2): K. Hitchcock — B. Lamouroux, F. Leboeuf, C. Bayayev — B. Gomis, E. Nzonzi (sub: G. Zola, 46) — D. Wise, G. Poyet (sub: G. Zola, 46). **Referee:** S. Dunn.

Berkovic restores calm



By Stephen Wood

THE senses were in danger of blurring after a whirlwind afternoon at White Hart Lane, but one observation was undeniable: West Ham United cannot afford, no matter how high the price, to lose Eyal Berkovic.

The only sense aroused when the Israeli international had the ball against Tottenham Hotspur was one of rare calm. His positional play, his first touch and the timing of his passes was soothed indeed. He did not score, but he made sure that his team could enjoy a satisfying victory.

No wonder he is wanted at Anfield, as an important part of the anticipated rebuilding work to be sanctioned by Gérard Houllier, the Liverpool manager. No wonder, too, that Liverpool plan to float the club on the Stock Market, for they will need plenty of funds to prise their target away from Upton Park.

"There are players going for four and five million pounds that are not fit to lace Eyal's boots," Harry Redknapp, the West Ham manager, said. "Someone would have to pay a lot of money for him, but I am not talking figures because it sounds like I want to sell him. I don't and Eyal has

never shown to me that he wants to leave West Ham."

The manner in which Redknapp has strengthened the club is a tribute to his managerial skills. Persuading Berkovic to join West Ham instead of Tottenham in the first place was useful, but now West Ham stand at a crossroads and Berkovic sums up their predicament. Peter Storrie, the director of football, was dismissed at the end of last week, in a move that left Redknapp "shocked and mystified". The side are sixth in the FA Carling Premiership and, regardless of the confusion over qualification for the UEFA Cup, deserve a place in Europe next season.

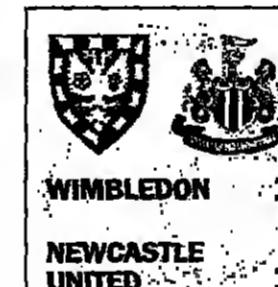
Berkovic created their first goal on Saturday after four minutes, a move that was finished by Ian Wright, who chipped the ball into an empty net from 30 yards. Midway through the second half, a pass by Berkovic found Marc Keller and he ran on to slip the ball under Ian Walker's body to extend the lead.

Then Tottenham—and the match—exploded into life. David Ginola gave the home side hope of saving a point with another glorious goal and the tension had mounted sufficiently for John Motore to lose his temper in injury time. He scythed down José Dominguez, prompting a mêlée in the middle of the field and a red card from Uriah Rennie, the referee.

The acrimony did not stop there. Ginola had words with Redknapp as they left the field, one Tottenham fan made a complaint to the police about the celebrations of Steve Lomas while Motore, surrounded by West Ham fans, showed no remorse for his sending-off.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (4-4-2): I. Walker — S. Carr, I. Young, S. Campbell, M. Tacchio — D. Anderson (sub: A. Naseem, 73min), T. Shawcross, S. Friend, D. Grimes — D. Wilson (sub: M. McKinney, 46). **WEST HAM UNITED** (4-4-1-1): S. Heslop — S. Lomas, I. Pearce, R. Ferdinand, S. Marin — T. Sinclair, J. Morris, F. Lampard, M. Keller — E. Berkovic, I. Wright (sub: S. Lazarevic). **Referee:** U. Rennie.

Gullit's mind elsewhere



By Alyson Rudd

THE problem with a long engagement is that it can become the focal point of a bride's entire existence. Newcastle United have absolutely nothing to divert them from their FA Cup Final date with Manchester United and so while Alex Ferguson should turn up at Wembley with his head in a whirl, unsure of the colour of the kit bags and the name of the coach driver, Ruud Gullit will be worrying to the last minute how the napkins will be folded at the post-match dinner.

Watching this FA Carling Premiership match was like having dinner with companions whose minds were elsewhere. They smiled at the anecdotes, even embarked on a couple themselves, but quite clearly the fare bypassed their taste buds and the ambience failed to stir their souls.

For Wimbledon, the distraction has been poor form and the continued absence of Joe Kinnear, forbidden by his doctors to lead the team since his heart attack in March. So fragile is the club previously known as the Crazy Gang that David Kemp, the stand-in manager, opted to bolster the defence when the scoreline stood at 1-1 and it was anyone's game. But if Wimbledon can

take heart from only their second point in eight matches, then perhaps the sacrifice of John Hartson, who scored his first goal since his £7.5 million transfer—a strike from a tight angle—was worth it.

Newcastle were similarly singular. Their supporters crammed into Selhurst Park and deserved to witness some passion, but Gullit, it seems, only has eyes for May 22 and the all-important choice of player for the big day. He made five changes to the side he named in midweek for the trip to Hillsborough and will no doubt continue to rotate his players until he finds the perfect combination to outwit Ferguson.

Gullit is even engrossed in the honeymoon period. There

have been rumblings on Tyneside that Gullit has three high-profile signings in mind and the identity of one was revealed yesterday when it emerged he had placed a bid of £10 million for Dani, the Real Mallorca striker, whose goal in the first leg of the Cup Winners' Cup semi-final effectively put Chelsea out of the competition.

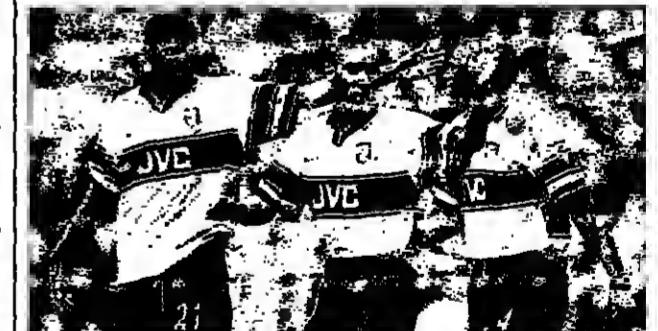
In the meantime, Newcastle are relying on Alan Shearer. The England captain is not what he was, but even a less sharp version is valuable and he gave Hartson a full stretch to deny him the winner from a vicious strike. That the best chance of a winner came in the first half illustrated how tame the second became.

WIMBLEDON (4-4-2): N. Sullivan — D. Jupp, K. Cunningham, D. Blackwell, B. Thatcher — M. Gayle, R. Earle, J. East, C. Hughes — C. Corr, J. Hartson (sub: A. Kimmins, 60). **NEWCASTLE UNITED** (4-3-1-1): S. Givens — A. Griffin, N. Delaney, D. Bahamont, D. Domínguez, D. Armstrong, A. Ferdinand, S. Marin — E. Bakambu, G. Staniford, N. Solano — S. Marzocchi (sub: A. Armstrong, 71), D. Gordon — R. Riordan, B. Deane.

ARSENAL (4-3-3): D. Seaman — L. Dixon, S. Bould, T. Adams, N. Winterburn — P. Vieira, E. Peixoto (sub: S. Hughes, 88) — R. Pires, N. Vieira (sub: S. Vieira, 78), M. Overmars (sub: K. Diouf, 88) — A. Anatoli, J. Townsend — P. Jones.

MIDDLESBROUGH (1-4-4-1): M. Schwarzer — S. Vickery, G. Peltier, C. Cooper (sub: V. Knott, 37min) — R. Stockdale (sub: M. Sundström, 60), M. Stewart, A. Townsend, N. McDonald (sub: A. Armstrong, 71), D. Gordon — H. Ricardo, B. Deane.

Referee: M. Riley



Formidable Arsenal: Kanu, Anatoli and Vieira celebrate victory

17 year old high jumper given clearance for take off.



The British Airways Olympic Futures Programme of multi-sport training camps in London and Orlando is helping 175 young British athletes achieve their Olympic dreams.

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WARNING: mass brawls in Europe can seriously damage your domestic footballing prospects. The players of Bologna and Marseilles know this better than most.

Both teams are under investigation after they finished their UEFA Cup semi-final on Tuesday night with fist and boots flying and the unseemly violence that followed the penalty that put the French club into the final then had its repercussions when both teams returned home. Each was demolished 4-0 in league action over the weekend.

For Marseilles, the defeat could be costly indeed. They lead the French championship by a single point and their goal

difference is now worse than Bordeaux, their rivals, after surrendering to Lens on Saturday, with two of the goals coming from Tony Vairelles and two from Daniel Moreira. Yesterday, Bologna succumbed to Sampdoria by the same score in Serie A.

At the top of the Italian championship, Lazio kept their one-point advantage after a classic headed goal from Christian Vieri, the Italy centre forward, put Sampdoria further into the relegation mire. Quite a change, thus, for Vieri, who

in Rome on Thursday, had contrived to put his team in trouble when Lazio showed disdainful disregard for the Cup Winners' Cup.

Nevertheless, their victory over Sampdoria in Genoa was clouded by bitter controversy. Vieri's goal was sweet enough, coming on the hour and vindicating the best moment that the referee had enjoyed all afternoon. He had seen a blatant Sampdoria foul, but allowed Almeida, to continue Lazio's momentum and Sergio Conceicao to pin-point his cross to the

near post, where Vieri, timing his run, headed the goal.

That was it, 1-0 for Lazio, their first win in four following league contests. The £70 million Roman team had Almeida dismissed for his second caution, an instinctive handball, but Ariel Ortega, Sampdoria's Argentina international, was then also shown the red card.

for persistent diving. The referee twice denied Sampdoria reasonable penalty claims and to the end it was a fractious, inelegant match.

All the while, news was filtering through that AC Milan, with goals from Oliver Bierhoff and Leonardo, were comfortable winners away to Vicenza. As in England, it now

looks to be a straight two-horse race, between Lazio and Milan. Both Parma, defeated 1-0 by AS Roma, and Fiorentina, who fell to Juventus, have lost

ability to offer Ronaldo et al a place in Europe next season.

In Germany, Bayern Munich, the opponents for United in the European Cup final next month, were held 1-1 by 1860 in the Munich Derby. Markus Babbel scored early on for Bayern, but two minutes from the end the league leaders allowed Marco Kurz to equalise. In Germany, too, there is a two-horse race for the title, but even though Ulf Kirsten ensured a fifth straight win for Bayer Leverkusen on Saturday, Bayern are eight points ahead.

Spanish fans scarcely know whether it is best to rejoice in pleasures of the present, or the promise of the future. Their next generation handsomely won the World Youth Cup in Nigeria over the weekend, beating Japan in the final, and, as Chelsea will verify, there are hidden strengths to the Spanish game.

One whose valuation has now risen above £10 million, the figure that Newcastle United had rejected, scored again for Real Mallorca yesterday, the last of six that Mallorca amassed against Athletic Bilbao. Clearly, the island team is still on a high after defeating Chelsea of the Cup Winners' Cup.

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: BIRMINGHAM ASSURED OF PLAY-OFF PLACE AFTER RIVALS DROP POINTS

Wolves pay price for penalty miss

Wolverhampton Wanderers 1
West Bromwich Albion 1

By A CORRESPONDENT

FORTUNE failed to favour the brave at Molineux yesterday as Wolverhampton Wanderers took another tentative step towards the Nationwide League first division play-offs.

Keith Curle, their captain, had the opportunity to secure three points and erase the memory of an own goal that settled the Black Country derby at The Hawthorns in August, 1997. However, his 54th-minute penalty was disappointingly high and it will be West Bromwich Albion who derive most satisfaction from the points shared with their local rivals.

Denis Smith, the West Bromwich manager, acknowledged Curle's courage in stepping up to try to convert the spot kick. "It's easy to criticise, but it took a lot of bottle to take a penalty in a match like this," he said. "Having said that, I was delighted when it went over."

Wolves remain in sixth place after this result, one that confirmed the participation in the play-offs of their other near-neighbours, Birmingham City, and ended the lingering hopes of Sheffield United. Now Wolves, Bolton Wanderers and Watford are the three candidates for the final two places.

Graham Taylor, the Watford manager, has asserted that there is no better time to overtake your opponents than on the tape and if his side win away to Port Vale tomorrow night, they will emerge as favourites, with Wolves and Bolton due to play one another at the Reebok Stadium on Friday evening.

Despite the loss of two points, Colin Lee, the Wolves manager, was not downhearted. "We're disappointed but not defeated," Lee, whose team have lost just once in the last 18 games, said. "Everyone at the club has worked for this and there is a massive determination among all the players to get on with it."

Much of that endeavour appears to dissolve after 18 minutes, when Micky Evans escaped his defensive marker inside the Wolves area and struck his right-foot shot past Stowell to put West Bromwich ahead.

It was a familiar scenario for visiting supporters. Although without a win in their past seven games, the most important statistic for them in what has been a season of underachievement was the three successive victories over Wolves without conceding a goal.

After a succession of passes, Wolves equalised when a free kick by Simpson to the far post eluded those players in a packed six-yard box before Carl Robinson found a



Mousat is brought down by Kilbane to earn Wolves a penalty, but Curle put the spot kick over the bar

decisive touch on ground level at the post.

Curle's fateful moment arrived after a graceful one-two between Mousat and Robinson allowed the former to advance into the penalty area. There, the hustling antics of Kilbane saw Mousat fall to the floor and Peter Eastwood, the assistant referee who had replaced

Mick Pierce at half-time, pointed to the spot.

Wolves had two late chances to win: Keane, a substitute, shot over and with a minute left, Bull, also on as substitute, discovered that several months out of first-team action had dulled his sharpness as Burgess, the West Bromwich captain, recovered to challenge after

the striker had been presented with the rare commodities of time and space in front of goal.

WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS (4-4-2): M Stowell — K Mousat, O Richards, C Curle, M Gilkes; N Johnson, C Robinson, S Sadiki, P Simpson (sub: S Odeyer); H Fox (sub: S Bla, 84). **WEST BROMWICH ALBION** (4-4-2): P. Whitehead — A Gilmour, D Burgess, G Burgess, G Peter — E Flynn, R Jones, J van Beek, K Kilbane — M Evans (sub: J Dunn, 85), L Hughes. Referee: M Pearce (sub: P Dunn, 45).

Gracious cheers offered from top to bottom

Ipswich Town 1
Crewe Alexandra 2

By PETER ROBINSON

NEWCASTLE United's may be the most passionate Manchester City's the longest suffering. Manchester United's the most numerous (outside the North West, obviously), but Ipswich Town supporters must be the most fair-minded in football. On Saturday, after their team had been beaten at home by opponents from right at the bottom of the Nationwide League first division, they stood and applauded the visitors off the pitch.

No matter that Ipswich's hopes of automatic promotion to the FA Carling Premiership had been held suspiciously close to the waterline, that their precious second place in the race had been lost within sight of the finish; that all their anticipation and optimism had suffered a shuddering jolt, they silenced a few frustrated seconds of boozing with an ovation that rippled around Portman Road.

Crewe Alexandra deserved no less. They were magnificent, a tribute to Dario Gradi, their manager, and the values he holds dear. Play the game the right way, play it fairly and win on merit or not at all — and they won this match full square on merit, making a mockery of their position in the league. If they are relegated after a performance like this — winning against the odds with ten men on the field during its thrilling finale — there is no justice in the world. If Ipswich miss out on the Premiership again,

they should console themselves with the knowledge that these things are simply more important.

Gradi dominated the day. He had promised beforehand that Crewe would get at least a draw, that they would score a few goals — "it would just be a question of whether we could keep them out" — and played his tactical hand to perfection, selecting just one striker and trusting that the quicksilver Rodney Jack would unsettle the big Ipswich back three. He did and Ipswich, outnumbered and often outplayed in midfield, had no answer.

Crewe went ahead after 63 minutes, Jack swinging a pass wide to the right while Venus sent him flying, then Rivers running on before turning inside Mowbray and shooting under the goalkeeper. It should have been 2-0, too, but Mowbray escaped punishment when he fell Jack inside the penalty area — an injustice that was compounded when, moments later, David Johnson fell over Walton's leg at the other end. Venus scored from the spot.

For a while, it seemed as if heroism and high principles would not be enough for Crewe, especially when Jermaine Wright was sent off, a late tackle earning a second, unlucky booking in the 76th minute, but they would not be denied. With seven minutes left, Smith swung in a corner, Macaulay appeared, unmarked, to volley it in and Ipswich could not escape a second time.

IPSWICH TOWN (4-5-1): M Thelwell — S Bla, M Mowbray, J Venables, M Stowell (sub: R Taylor, 84), K Dyer, M Holland, J Magson, J Chapman — J Scovell (sub: D Johnson, W Smith), S Venables (sub: D Wright, S Green), R Wright (sub: K Wright, D Murphy), P Charnock (sub: L Unsworth, S Johnson) — R Jack (sub: C Little, 88). Referee: C Wilkes.

London stage in state of collapse

Queens Park Rangers 1
Bradford City 3

By KEITH PIKE

QUIZ question: who finished the inaugural Premier League campaign as the capital's top club? No. Wrong again. Not them, either. Yes, it really was. Queens Park Rangers' fall from grace has been dramatic and traumatic and the lift may not have reached the ground floor yet.

The club that lorded it over London so recently could find next season that only Barnet are operating at a lower level and, let's face it, life doesn't get more undistinguished than that. "Results don't lie and our results over the past two years speak for themselves," Gerry Francis, the director of football, admitted after their defeat to Bradford City on Saturday. "This is a good football club, but it needs a lot of help."

What it needs most of all, though, is a win. Any win. Three points would almost certainly be enough to prevent QPR's descent into the Nationwide League second division, but they have hit poor form again at exactly the wrong time. This was their fourth successive defeat and they have the best part of a full team either crocked or banned with only two games left.

"I don't think anyone's too good to go down," Francis said. QPR are certainly not too good. A club that could once boast Bowles and Marsh, that finished fifth in the Premier League as recently as 1993 with Ferdinand and Wilkins

to the fore, is now dependent on the likes of Baraclough, Kulcsar and Jeanneret for salvation. Fine players they may prove to be in time; but time is not on QPR's side.

For half an hour, their mix of perspiration and desperation — inspiration was strictly off limits — matched Bradford's more measured approach. But once they had gone beyond Beagrie's goal against the run of play, QPR were a beaten side. Worse still, they looked like they knew it.

Westwood struck a second on the hour. Gallen gave QPR brief hope with ten minutes left, but Watson hit a third for Bradford after Westwood and Ready had gone forehead to forehead like a pair of stags without the antlers (or the intelligence). Both feigned their innocence. Both went through the motions of appearing disengaged at being sent off. Both, to honest, made complete fools of themselves.

Bradford did not need telling the significance of the day's events, here and at Portman Road. Their goal tally is so superior to Ipswich Town's that victories against Oxford United on Saturday and away to Wolverhampton Wanderers eight days later will see them promoted to heights that were last attained in 1922. What an achievement that would be.

QUEEN'S PARK RANGERS (4-4-2): L Harper — T Bracken, K Ready, O McRae, S Goss, G Kulcsar (sub: P Murray, 69), G Peacock, K Rawford (sub: D Dowes, 62) — G Allen, S Sadiq. **BRADFORD CITY** (4-4-2): G Welsh — S Wright, D Green, A Warrington, W Jacobs, A O'Driscoll, S Bla — J Sharpe, G Whalley, S McCull, P Bagshaw — R Basile (sub: O Wilkes, 73), J Mills (sub: G Watson, 87). Referee: R Styles

Watford 2
Crystal Palace 1

By KEVIN EASON

EVEN as the final whistle sounded, a track-suited Graham Taylor was urging his Watford players into attack, his arms whirling like a demented air steward, pointing out the exits which lead to the FA Carling Premiership.

Taylor says that this will be the week that could decide whether his side will be in the Nationwide League first division play-offs. They have a tough game away to Port Vale tomorrow, one they have to win to retain hopes of gaining a place among the contenders.

Yet while everything is going their way — Watford are the team in form, this victory being their fifth in succession — Taylor is only too conscious of the fact that they could lose

Taylor intends to go for broke

out by virtue of the number of goals scored if they finish equal on points for the fourth play-off position. It was agony for him as his players shot over the bar, wide of the posts and almost anywhere but into the net — and then he had to suffer further as Palace pummelled his defence into giving away a late goal.

The last ten minutes were really nerve-racking because we had not been able to kill them off with a third goal," he said. "That has happened to us in the last few games where we have not finished the job. We need the goals just to make sure."

Their first on Saturday,

promotion-chasers on edge. Taylor said, and confirmed his opinion that Coppell's young side is one of potential.

A goal from Tommy Mooney, after 53 minutes, still did not settle the nerves, particularly when Palace, after 87 minutes, managed a meaningful cross that Morrissey flicked on and McKenzie headed into the net.

Nevertheless, Watford won through. Three games left and all must be won if they are to reach the target of 79 points set by Taylor. "We would be desperately unlucky not to be in the play-offs with a total like that," he said. "It is up to us now, nobody else."

WATFORD (4-4-2): A Chamberlain — D Bailey, R Page, S Palmer, P Robinson — P Kennedy, R Johnson, M Hyde, N Wright (sub: S Venables, 64) — G Allen, S Sadiq, J Mills (sub: M Nonce, 45). **CRYSTAL PALACE** (4-4-2): K Miller — G Pino (sub: A Frimpong, 61), P Woolley, H Whitehead, S Smith, S Thompson, G Cahalan, T Thompson, S Foster, G Cottrell — C Foster, O Austin — L McKenzie. Referee: E Lomas.

Bristol City 1

Birmingham City 2

By NICK SZCZEPAK

IT IS an unquestioned part of football lore that when you are struggling, nothing goes in your favour. Followers of Bristol City would concur with that after a game in which all the significant decisions — a disallowed goal, penalty refused and a penalty awarded — went against their team. To that can be added a poor back-pass that led to the deciding goal as the home side, desperate for points in their quest to escape relegation, were instead firmly consigned to the bottom of the table.

In a first half described by Trevor Francis, the Birmingham manager, as "one of our most uncomfortable of the season," Bristol City dominated but could only get the ball in the net once and then saw Michael Dean, the referee, award a free kick to the visitors for an unspecified offence.

Later, Dean turned down strong penalty appeals after Jonathan Bass, of Birmingham, appeared to block a shot on goal by Aaron Brown with his hand.

These frustrations were forgotten a minute after the restart as Ade Akinbiyi ran on to Adam Locke's long pass before sliding the ball in from an improbable angle, but they returned within a minute when

Peter Ndlovu tumbled easily under Taylor's challenge and Martin Grainger put away the penalty. The Birmingham players didn't even appeal.

Benny Lennartsson, the Bristol City manager, said,

"It got worse of course. Twenty minutes from time, David Howell's mishit a backpass and Ndlovu, by now as unpopular as the referee, was on to it to steer in the winner."

The visitors came off under a rain of jeers and, it emerged, phlegm and a steward had to be restrained by colleagues after an exchange of words with Francis, who had had a lapse of memory by the time of the after-match deliberations.

"I don't think anything happened there," Francis said. "I

was just concerned about the protection of my players."

While Birmingham's victory, together with yesterday's result from Molineux, secures their place in the Nationwide League first division play-offs, Bristol City now face a game of enormous importance away to Crewe Alexandra tomorrow evening and will be without two players away on international duty.

"We have to win the last three games," Lennartsson said.

Not that Roy McFarland, the Cambridge manager, is losing any sleep just yet — even if his frantic demeanour on the touchline on Saturday suggested that he is, at the very least, growing impatient.

"We've got a young squad and perhaps they are feeling the tension a little bit," he said afterwards. "We let ourselves down today, but I'm still positive we will be promoted."

Cambridge's biggest league crowd in seven years packed into the Abbey Stadium, but it was the visiting supporters who found their voices first when Giuliano Graziani headed home from close range in the seventh minute.

McFarland's men equalised in the 26th minute when Tyler, the Peterborough goalkeeper, was unable to prevent a low, innocuous-looking cross from Butler, to which Paul Wanless got the slightest of touches, squirming under his body.

Cambridge dominated from then on, but Tyler, assisted by the woodwork on three occasions, kept them at bay — even after Andy Edwards, the Peterborough captain, was dismissed midway through the second half for tripping the goal-bound Marshall.

CAMBRIDGE UNITED (4-4-3): S Marshall — T Flanagan, J Finnigan, D Phillips (sub: L Holmes, K Austin, S Simon), P McLean, R Baker, T Battenby (sub: N Penn, SG, C Gordon).

WALSALL (4-4-2): J Walker — M Gadsby, S McCall, P Bagshaw, T Battenby (sub: N Penn, SG, C Gordon).

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MONDAY MATTERS

Great showman's final bow

Even the manner of announcing his retirement was vintage Big Ron, says Matt Dickinson

One can only assume that it was for light relief rather than salvation that Nottingham Forest hired Ron Atkinson this season, and even his jokes had lost their sparkle by the end. Now he has announced that he will retire this summer and we will not see his like again, except perhaps in the music halls of Blackpool. His dodgy tan and weak gags would make him a perfect compère and he already has the catchphrase, "Come on down," as he told the Forest supporters.

Big Ron could manage football clubs for fun, but, like anyone who relies too much on laughter to make themselves popular, the fun was increasingly at his expense. It was clear that he had lost his comic oomph when he arrived at Forest in January and, swept away by the faint ripple of applause from the terraces, promptly sat down in the Arsenal dugout.

"I knew it was the wrong one when the same guy introduced himself as Dennis Bergkamp," Atkinson quipped, but we were already laughing at, rather than with, him. Forest lost 1-0 and the jokes, like his team, became increasingly laboured.

The announcement of his impending departure from the City Ground was barely more dignified. With his exclusive story sold already to one Sunday tabloid, Atkinson ducked and dived through his obligatory press conference after the 2-0 defeat away to Aston Villa on Saturday, which condemned Forest to the Nationwide League first division. "You'll be the last to know," he said, before taking the money and running.



To be fair, as Big Ron would say, he enlivened more than his share of back pages during his managerial career that has lasted 28 years and 11 jobs. He even had a bit of success along the way, a modest player with Oxford United who worked his way up the ladder from Cambridge United, where he enjoyed successive promotions in the late Seventies, to West Bromwich Albion, where he guided a modest club into Europe.

However, it was his five years at Manchester United between 1981 and 1986 that best characterised a coach who was always regarded as too decadent to join the greats. Nor did he the austere work ethic of a Wenger, Graham or Ferguson and his flash style appeared to

sor quickly banished, can hardly have helped.

The rest of his career brought occasional triumphs (the Littlewoods Cup with Sheffield Wednesday, the Coca-Cola Cup with Aston Villa) punctuating a series of moves. He lasted 11 months on his return to The Hawthorns, three months at Atlético Madrid and less than a season back at Hillsborough, where his contract was terminated, appropriately, while he was sunning himself on the beach.

"I know the champagne and jewellery image has stuck with me," he said in his confessional yesterday, "but much of it has been perpetuated by people who don't even know me. In fact, when I was burgled the

thieves were disappointed not to find my place bulging with gold watches and trinkets."

Yet Atkinson has hardly been shy when it comes to self-promotion. His autobiography — *A Different Ball Game* — included scandalous and unsubstantiated allegations of drug-taking involving an England international and opinion was divided, although certainly not down the middle, as to whether it was an attempt to rid the game of the scourge of drugs or a quick ruse to sell more copies.

You would have thought that Atkinson would be the last person to spread unfounded rumours, given that he has had to endure his own share regarding financial affairs. Several reports were published in the mid-Eighties that his transfer dealings were being investigated by the Inland Revenue and although he was cleared of all such allegations, it hardly helped to purify his image.

Soon it will be all over and the game will have lost a character whose gregariousness and passion could not spare him from the reality that, at 60, he had lost his touch. "He thought that he could come in, tell a few jokes and everything would be all right," one of his predecessors at Forest said. "But he underestimated how bad the problems were and he overestimated how much he had left in him."

Certainly, Atkinson appeared to have run out of one-liners by yesterday. "If there are any international committees looking for an experienced man, they can always give me a ring," he said, but it was not much of a parting shot.

It was one of those moments that said it all. Rather a long moment, as it happened. They even put a clock on it. It was time ticking away. It was one of those curious, suspended moments in sport in which time doesn't stand still.

It was the time that John Parrott took to play his shot in his match against Chris Smell in the snooker world championship at The Crucible. Parrott was faced with a tricky shot during a safety duel with Smell (incidentally, it is a strange fact of snooker that the safety exchanges — the nearest that snooker gets to a head-to-head confrontation, the nearest a player gets to making a tackle — are more interesting than the scoring). We had Parrott looking fraught, looking worried, looking hag-ridden by double wagging his head, raising his clown's pointed eyebrows and, finally, being a wacky Scouser — surely, somewhere there exists a non-wacky Scouser — grinning ruefully. And it was, of course, rather good television.

The shot took three numbing minutes, 180 tension-racked seconds. The frame took 43 minutes in part of a session that lasted four hours. I thought the only frames that lasted 43 minutes were the ones I was playing in Anyway, Parrott won in the end, a victory that put down to experience and character.

All of which was quite interesting. Snooker had its golden age, of course, as it was rising from obscurity to become a major sport and a national obsession. Now it has found its level as a minor major sport — better than being a major minor sport, after all — and if the players are no longer household names in most households, the sport still has its place in the national life and still makes intriguing television.

But the snooker boom of the Eighties changed the way that we look at sport. For a start, it gave us the basic polarities of Steve Davis and Jimmy White. Why did White, who had such a colossal gift for the game — "natural talent" was the preferred phrase — never win the world championship? Why did Davis — lacking such obvious gifts — win it every year?

The popular notion — that Davis was "boring" — was an obvious nonsense. Few sportsmen have spoken more interestingly about their sport than Davis. In fact, Davis's talent for analysis was not only helpful for observ-

ers, it was close to the heart of his talent. He had a "natural talent", not for potting balls but for winning snooker matches.

The fact that these two things could be separated came as a revelation to many of us. Snooker told these simple sporting truths with unprecedented vividness.

It was snooker's leisurely pace, the ability of the camera to register faces that did the job. The players' expression of self-disgust and, more revealing, sheer bewilderment as the easy pot rattles in the jaws and escapes, tells the story. Brilliance is the background; one that shows to best advantage the error that changes the destiny of the frame, the match, the championship.

The snooker boom was an education in the vulnerability of the athlete in competition, the fear in the heart of the champion. The long moments of stillness, this being essentially a still game, told us the truth about sport, the blindingly obvious truth that we meet and encounter every sporting day: that games are not won by skill alone.

The annual excitements of the world championship are helped by the stressful nature of the venue. This became not so much a crucible as a Petri dish, one in which sport performs its hideous and nameless experiments on the human soul.

Aod always and again that cutaway chair like an insect wriggling on a pin. This is always the most interesting aspect of a frame-winning break: not the soothing click and clack of the balls, drawn into their pockets, it seems, by some sort of magnetic flux, but the anguish and self-loathing on the face of the person to whom these terrible things are being done.

We see, time and again, players gnawing their nails, or pulling the most terrible faces with the complete lack of self-consciousness that only total involvement allows. Since television has cleaned up its act — they keep saying Embassy but they don't show us the players savouring the consolation of the sponsor's product — we miss the classic shot of Jimmy White: face pale, hollow, drawn and the inside of his cheeks touching as he raised his cigarette. We understand more about the nature of sport than we did 15 years ago: snooker was our tutor.



Stepping Into The Limelight

By Mel Webb

OVER the years, The Times MeesPierson Corporate Golf Challenge has come to occupy an important place in the hearts and minds of business golfers everywhere in the British Isles. From the inception of the competition in 1993, the aim of its title sponsors has always been to enhance the season-long experience that only association with the Challenge can bring to its participants.

Everybody likes value for money, and that applies to housewife and company chief executive alike. There are credits to be won by the company golf day organiser who can prove to the boss that his cash is being well spent and, if only on that level, the Challenge would represent something of a bargain.

For their registration fee, companies are involving themselves in an event that last year saw 100,000 corporate golfers playing in it and they will also see their golf day featured in the Monday edition of The Times as part of the newspaper's sworn task of Getting Under the Skin of Sport.



Details of impending Challenge golf days are published in this space every week, together with the results from the previous seven days, plus regular editorial updates of notable feats by individual players. If somebody playing in a Challenge golf day has a hole in one, or produces a remarkable Stableford score, it will appear here.

That is Step One: and that is just the beginning. The leading 25 teams and ties in the 14 areas of the British Isles into which the Challenge is divided move into the regional finals, with all expenses on the day paid Step Two. For the select band of 14 regional winners, an even greater prize awaits in the form of a spot in the national final at the La Manga Club Resort in south-east Spain, again with all expenses paid Step Three.

Step Four holds out the promise of the greatest prize of them all. The winning team over two days of national final competition will not only be crowned as 1999 corporate golf champions of the British Isles but will also have the opportunity of representing their country on a global scale in the World Corporate Golf Challenge final next year.

Teams from 38 countries are competing in this year's world final in May and there is every chance that there will be more in 2000.

Just consider it one day this spring, summer or early autumn, one very special company will be holding its golf day somewhere in the British Isles.

One day early next summer, that same company will be taking on the world. Quite a thought, isn't it?

FORTHCOMING COMPANY GOLF DAYS

The companies listed have registered their golf day for the 1999 Challenge. The top four individual scores on the day will form the company team eligible to qualify for a regional final.

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Registration Form

The Times MeesPierson Corporate Golf Challenge is open to any company, organisation, partnership, association or body (not golf societies) based in the British Isles, which holds a business/company golf day in which 12 or more amateur players take part, of which one player must be an employee of the registering company. To qualify for this year's competition, your company golf day must be played on or before September 13th 1999. Your company golf day should include an individual 18 hole Stableford competition, played off 3/4 handicap or as adjusted accordingly. Players qualifying for the Regional and National Finals must have a current Official Club Handicap.

You can enter via the following:

1. By Post Complete the form below and send together with the registration fee of £175 plus VAT (£1250) to the address below, to arrive no later than September 10th 1999. Acknowledgement will be sent within 21 days.

2. By Internet via our event site:

GOLF TODAY

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Will be holding a golf day at: _____

Golf Club Address _____

County _____ on _____ (date)

and will be attended by approximately _____ golfers. If the venue and date of your golf day have yet to be finalised please leave blank and inform us as soon as it is confirmed.

Personalised Newsletter Requirements

Please type or print clearly your company or golf day name (maximum 20 letters) including punctuation, upper and lower cases, to be incorporated in the Times event newsletter for distribution on your day. Company Name/Golf Day Name _____

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

I accept the terms and conditions for company registration and enclose a cheque for £205.63 inc. VAT. (£1250) made payable to **The Times MeesPierson CGC**

Signed _____ Date _____

If you require any further information please call the event organisers on 0171 405 7273 or 0141 221 2225 (Scotland), or write to **The Times MeesPierson Corporate Golf Challenge, PO Box 4, Harpenden, Hertfordshire AL5 3DL**.

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The competition is approved by the RGA for payment of expenses Rule 1.8 Sec. 7/R/54/99.

Training
of sport

Business

MONDAY MATTERS

Football's chickens coming home to roost

After the Salt Lake City Olympic corruption, surely nothing could further wound the integrity of sport worldwide? Football is giving it a pretty good try.

A book, *How They Stole The Game*, by the British investigative author, David Yallop, is to be released on the British market today; in it Yallop stirs the pot of Fifa, the governing body of football, under the direction of Joao Havelange.

But on June 8 last year, when Havelange was succeeded by his lieutenant, Sepp Blatter, as president, accusations that the succession was procured with the help of \$50,000 each for votes from up to 20 African members of the

204-nation governing body were rife.

In his book, Yallop has raised the tempo of these allegations. Indeed, unable to find a publisher brave enough to print the book in English, the writer set up his own company, Poetic Publishing, to put it on the market. And he endorses the front cover of the book with "the book the Fifa president tried to ban".

To the chagrin of Blatter, his attempts to go to law to suppress Yallop's work are helping the sales. A court in Holland ruled that the book did not offend Dutch law, a Swiss judge has placed a temporary injunction on it, and, although the nub of the allegations is protectively coated with words

such as "rumoured" and "alleged", the publication goes ahead here this morning.

The hardback is a significant assault on the integrity of Havelange and the way it claims he manipulated Fifa, which, the 83-year-old Brazilian "honorary" president has boasted, has an international turnover of \$150 billion.

In Brazil, some eminent sociological and sports writers have exposed the wheeler-dealing of Havelange, and Ricardo Terra Teixeira, his son-in-law, who is a Fifa executive committee member and president of the Brazilian Football Association. Pile, in his tenure as Brazil's sports minister, brought out a law to curb the abuses of Teixeira, and Havelange has

Rob Hughes on the publication of a book that alleges corruption at the heart of a world governing body

since repeatedly barred Pile from the platform of Fifa.

Havelange has attempted to shrug aside Yallop's book. As he has done with other journalists, myself included, he smears any attempt of analysis and any criticism by scoffing that he defeated an Englishman, Stanley Rous, for the presidency in 1974, and the English have been making inroads about him ever since. Yet Havelange never felt the need to go to the law to prove himself. It was the acquiescence of a

feebly Fifa executive committee that allowed the rumours to take root. Then Lennart Johansson, president of the European football union (Uefa), and Mong-Joon Chung, son of the founder of the South Korean company, Hyundai, began to stand up to Havelange. They were unhappy about his habit of granting television contracts, which, for the next two World Cups are SwFr1.3 billion and £1.5 billion respectively, without approval or discussion by the 24-country executive.

Some of this background is missed in Yallop's book. However, in printing he is braver than some of us who heard rumours from within Fifa and outside, of bribery in Paris last summer. He may be taking an enormous risk, because none of us knows of any source of proof about what was going on in the Meridien Hotel in Paris on the eve of the vote.

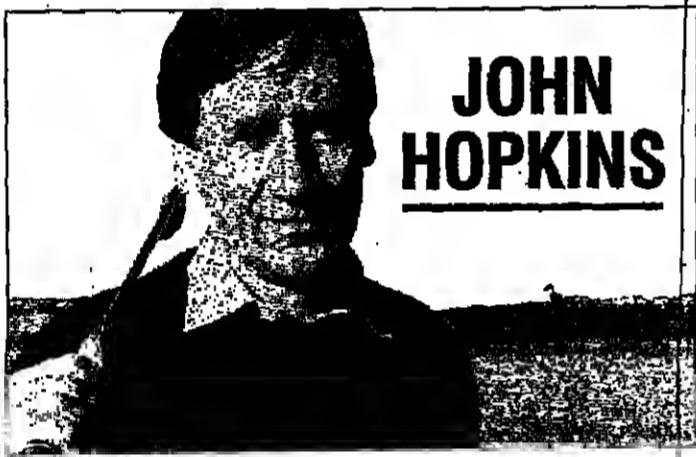
What went on when Blatter defeated Johansson by 11 votes to 80 was clear for all to see and hear. Blatter was asked about "the Qatari bribes" and democracy, a new road" should have lost the support that he had been promised. Yesterday, from his home in Sweden, Johansson repeated what he had said on the night

of Blatter's victory and all that he has told Yallop on the matter of the alleged handouts. "I will say nothing about any bribes, because I know of no proof they took place. It would be a bad loser who makes such allegations without evidence."

Johansson, however, is "not against" an independent inquiry into Fifa affairs. "I have told the president [Blatter] that we cannot risk what has happened to the Olympic movement. We must be seen to be clean, and if it takes an independent arbiter to look at our books, then we should open the doors. Fifa is not ours, it belongs to the world of football." *How They Stole The Game* by David Yallop (Poetic Publishing, £16.99).

Leeway on the fairway becomes "a matter of degree" — but Ballesteros should have been penalised

Definition of rules is giving an inch



JOHN HOPKINS

Did you have a good game of golf yesterday? Two down with six to play, yet you won on the 18th green, I understand. And this despite being out-driven and not having played for several weeks, what with baying to cut the grass one day, attending your god-daughter's confirmation the next and the heavy rain that fell.

I am sure that there was plenty of banter during your match, because there always is, and I am sure there was not a whiff of cheating. You played the ball as it lay and so did your opponent. You gave him parts of 2ft and less, and he did the same to you. He did not walk on your line on the green, you did not cough on his backswing and you beat him. So now you are through to the next round of the club knockout tournament. For the drink you had in the clubhouse before driving home tasted good.

Golf is a game of manners. At matchplay, you wish your opponent good luck on the 1st tee and then abide by a set of complicated rules until the time comes to shake hands with your opponent again, you having beaten him or he having vanquished you. At strokeplay, you ask him his score on each hole, if you have not noticed it yourself. You write it down and at the end you exchange cards, sign them and hand them in as accurate and truthful accounts of your game.

That golf is also a game of trust is one of its strengths. It is a game in

which it is understood that each player is expected to abide by a set of rules that are framed to make the game as fair as possible. Only the player knows that he has nudged his ball on a patch of longer grass in the rough while his opponent was across the other side of the fairway. Only the player knows that the ball he found in the bush by the side of the 15th green was his ball — and not one of the same make and markings that had been lost by another golfer.

Golfers are, in other words, both poachers and gamekeepers. Golf does not send out umpires with every match to settle any dispute, nor a referee to blow a whistle when he sees an infringement. You did not win your match yesterday because the referee failed to notice a knock-on, or allowed seven minutes of injury time when he should have allowed only two.

And so, miraculously we arrive at El Prat, near Barcelona, where Severiano Ballesteros was in hot water last week with other professionals competing in the Spanish Open, ended yesterday because of an occurrence in the first round on Thursday. Ballesteros, playing from light rough on the 12th hole, hit his ball into the trees that line this fairway. It was later declared lost and he walked the 200 or so yards back down the fairway to play another ball. So far, so good. The trouble began when Spanish television later broadcast film that showed that Ballesteros played his second ball from nearer the hole. The significance is not so much that the ball was not in the same spot as

that it was both nearer the hole and no longer in line with a tree. On the face of it, this seems to be a clear breach of Rule 20-7 Playing from Wrong Place and Ballesteros should have been penalised two strokes.

The chief referee at this tournament was John Paramor, a very good golfer himself and one of the strong officials in world golf. He has never been known to waive or bend any rule for anyone, not even Ballesteros when in Spain. Indeed, Paramor has fined Ballesteros for slow play at least once and warned him for slow play at least once.

On another famous occasion at Valderrama in 1994, Paramor denied Ballesteros relief from a tricky position behind a cork tree on the 72nd hole, a ruling that virtually made sure that Ballesteros could not win the tournament. Ballesteros sought relief on the grounds that the place where his ball had ended was amidst some scrapings by a burrowing ani-

mal, a plea that Paramor rejected.

On this occasion, however, Paramor ruled that Ballesteros had not committed any breach of the rules. "I asked the player what he had done and what he was trying to do," Paramor said yesterday. "I realised he had replaced his ball closer to the hole, but it comes down to a matter of degree. Was it significantly better? I adjudged it was not because the tree in question was not one that was concerning him. He said that if he was trying to improve his line, he would not have done what he did because this brought other trees into play."

"There has to be some leeway," Paramor said. "Take the rule governing the ball hanging on the edge of the hole on the green. Rule 16-2 says a player has ten seconds for the ball to fall into the hole, but earlier in the rule it says a player is allowed enough time to reach the hole."

As it happened, Paramor had just had to adjudicate on such a situation and he ruled in the player's favour after watching the incident on television and timing the player's walk from the ball to the edge of the hole.

"Golf is not a precise game," Paramor continued. "Supposing a player's ball has gone into a water hazard: he cannot tell precisely where it entered the hazard and so he cannot

place his new ball in exactly the correct position. The key to this is that he has used his best endeavours to do it all correctly. I am happy that the player did this."

Ballesteros is the one who has to live with himself after this episode. He has to look himself in the mirror each morning. "The rule is very clear," Ballesteros said. "I spoke to John Paramor and he is happy. The rest is history."

In this situation, most amateurs would not have known the rules well enough to have done anything but replace the ball accurately and, if they were found not to have done so, would either expect disqualification or would have disqualified themselves.

Is the conclusion of this story that amateurs should learn the rules better? It probably is. But another conclusion might be that there is one rule for amateurs and another one for professionals.

SPORTS LETTERS

European Cup final is devalued by yellow card ruling

From Mr Jonathan Lear
Sir, While I am well and truly over the moon that Manchester United won in such a thrilling way against Juventus, I am quite as sick as any parrot can be at the extraordinarily unjust treatment of Keane and Scholes, who will miss the European Cup final.

Even assuming that the yellow cards

both players received for fouls were justified, the real beneficiaries of this action will not be Juventus but Bayern Munich, who will not be obliged to face the first-choice team of Manchester United.

European football's showpiece final is therefore debased. The immediacy of a "sin-bin" sending-off would have been so

much more appropriate, providing an

on to endure hardship would be the culprit, not the millions who have no control over the player, the team or the referee, yet at the end of the day are the only ones who do suffer.

Why, for example, should supporters, people who have played a bet and the rest of the team, who may lose their job if the team is relegated, be made to pay because Robbie Fowler decided, in the heat of the moment, to act the fool, or Dennis Wise and Emmanuel Petit do a tackle from behind?

Fowler is to have a few weeks' holiday to reward him and Liverpool supporters are denied watching an exciting talent who did something stupid. If he had to pay £50,000 of his net earnings, he might never have done it.

The money, by the way, should go to the development of football, charity — anywhere bar the FA or the club.

Yours sincerely,
ERIC MORLEY,
Miss World (Jersey) Ltd,

21 Golden Square, London, W1R 3PA.

resident in Cheshire and Bavaria respectively, to whom national identity is of no consequence. Indeed, many of the players will be neither English nor German.

A recent European Commission document refers to "the rise of ultra-nationalism" as a negative aspect relating to sport in Europe and I would argue that commentaries such as those made by Rob Hughes et al only foster such sentiments.

The cynics amongst us might say that the forthcoming fixture is little more than a contest between well-paid mercenaries, temporarily

far from the point last year was a case in point — could provide a welcome respite from the worst aspects of nationalistic tendencies that are exhibited in international competitions.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN S. HUNTER,
Brunel University,
Borough Road,
Isleworth,
Middlesex TW1 5DU.

Hotline hitch

From Mr Roddy Finlay

Sir, I have never attended a first-class cricket match, but I decided to take my brother to watch some of the forthcoming World Cup games. After much searching, I finally found the "hotline" telephone number 40 times and have always found it engaged. This is not the way to encourage spectators to attend and is extremely frustrating. Maybe I will just stay at home, watch

it on television and listen to the commentators bemoaning the lack of spectators!

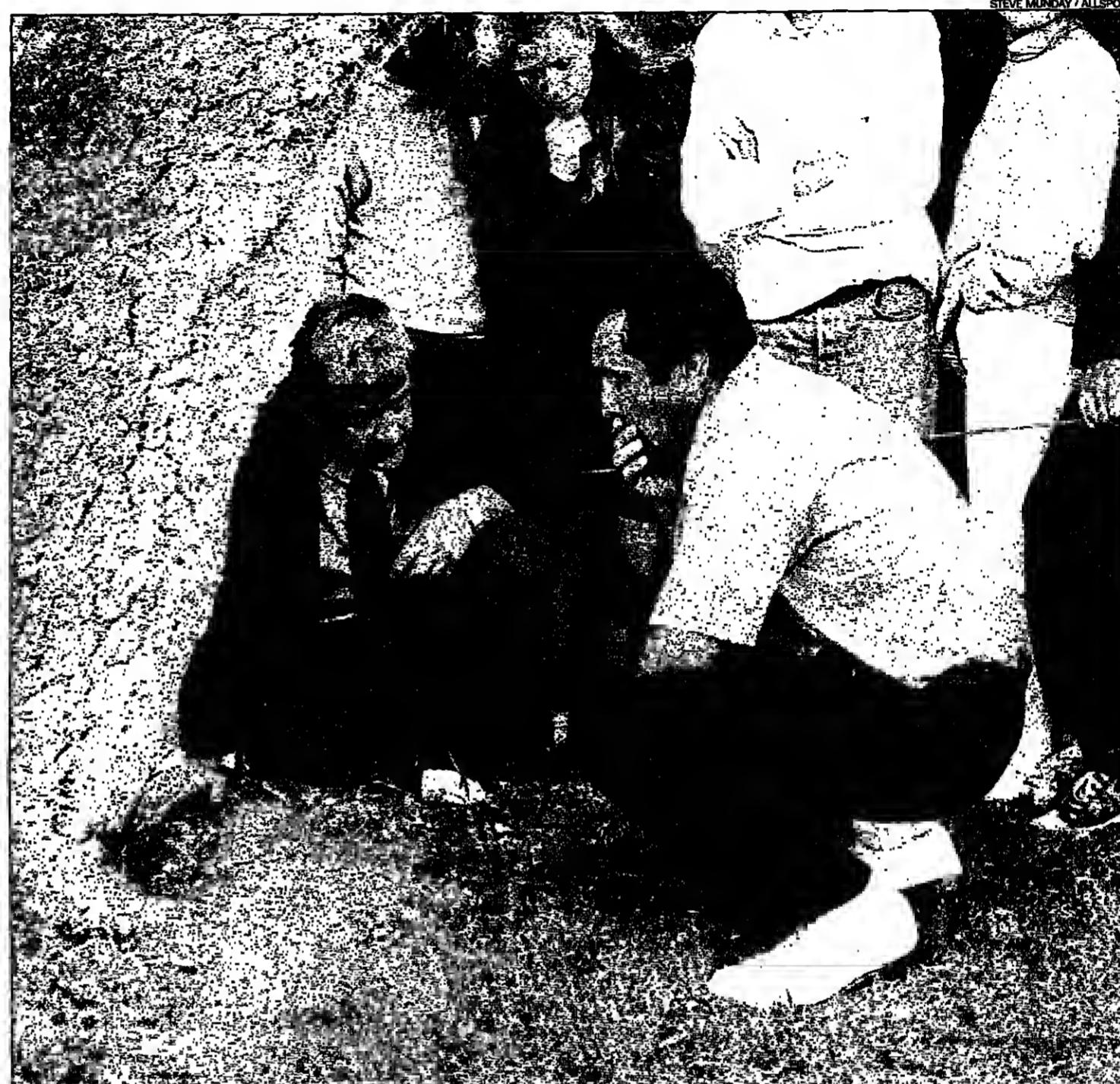
Yours faithfully,
RODDY FINLAY,
Craigellachie,
The Green, Anstruther.

Ace of clubs?

From Mr Craig Lister
I am the captain of Greenmount Golf Club, near Bury, Lancashire and last Saturday, during our club competition, I achieved a hole-in-one at the 6th hole.

A hole-in-one is an elusive feat at the best of times, but it has been pointed out to me that it may be unique for a club captain to achieve an "ace" in a club competition during his year of office.

I would appreciate it if anyone could advise me just how unique it is.
Yours faithfully,
CRAIG N. LISTER,
Bury,
Lancashire BL8 1XY.



At Valderrama in 1994, Ballesteros fell foul of John Paramor, the tournament referee, who denied him assistance with his lie at the 18th

Sports letters may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5211. They should include a daytime telephone number.

Run should be for fun

From Mrs G. F. Long

Sir, I agree with Rob Hughes (April 19) about covering "the London Marathon. I switched on the television about an hour after the start and settled down to watch the parade of people doing something I could never do — and doing it for charity.

What did I get? Learned pronouncements on the "first group", the "second group" etc. I did not wish to see people running for money and I am sure many will agree with me.

Surely the Marathon was started as something that anybody could have a try at. We can watch athletic competition during the many meets that there are nowadays — and I love watching those as well — but I do not want them to be mixed up. Let's get back to the

idea of amateurs doing something healthful and helpful (and delightfully silly sometimes).

Yours sincerely,
GWYNETH LONG,
79, Halstock Crescent,
West Canford Heath,
Poole, Dorset BH17 9BE.

Punish players

From Mr E. Morley

Sir, Why should the millions who do the pools, take part in bets etc suffer because either a player has an angry spell or the referee's decision to send off a player leaves an unequal contest? The only person who should be punished is the player, not the public or team.

What, for example, should supporters, people who have played a bet and the rest of the team, who may lose their job if the team is relegated, be made to pay because Robbie Fowler decided, in the heat of the moment, to act the fool, or Dennis Wise and Emmanuel Petit do a tackle from behind?

Using this system, the only

Final words

From Mr J. S. Hunter

Sir, Rob Hughes's comment regarding "the old enemies — England versus Germany, Manchester United versus Bayern Munich" (April 22) was an unfortunate echo of virtually identical comments made by television pundits.

The cynics amongst us might say that the forthcoming fixture is little more than a contest between well-paid mercenaries, temporarily

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Yours

</

Weston's century ensures victory

By MICHAEL AUSTIN

EDGBASTON (Warwickshire won toss): *Worcestershire Royals* (4pts) beat *Warwickshire Bears* by 117 runs (D/L method)

IT TOOK Philip Weston, the Worcestershire opener, eight painstaking overs to score his first run, but he advanced flamboyantly to a maiden century yesterday.

Weston, a powerful left-hander, made 125, with 11 fours and six sixes, from 124 balls, shared an opening partnership of 149 in 27 overs with the forthright Pollard and worked Worcestershire into a match-winning position. With Warwickshire wobbling at 27 for two off seven overs in response to 287 for four, rain intervened for an hour, three overs shy of the 30 overs required for a result.

Warwickshire's adjusted target was 231 from 29 overs, a challenge that aptly reflected how comprehensively they had been outplayed.

Pollard, released last autumn by Nottinghamshire, marked his competition debut for the Royals with 70 from 33 balls before Solanki eagerly exploited the Warwickshire handicap of bowling with a slippery ball. Their third-wicket partnership was worth 49 in six overs, with Solanki contributing 32 before perishing to the second of two athletic catches by Knight in the deep.

In contrast to Warwickshire's slow start, Knight announced himself for the Bears with a flurry of five boundaries, but he skied mis timed hook to short mid-wicket soon after Smith drove a catch to mid-off. The portents were poor for Warwickshire and when Leatherdale took four wickets in three overs, they were down and almost out.

Croft display ignites the Dragons' fire

LORD'S (Glamorgan won toss): *Glamorgan Dragons* (4pts) beat *Middlesex Crusaders* by 301 runs

REMARKABLY, this was the first time that Glamorgan have batted in any form of cricket this season. It showed initially as they stumbled to 82 for four on a pitch of no excessive movement, before two intelligently crafted fifties from Adrian Dale and Robert Croft took them to respectability.

Middlesex themselves began badly, but never recovered against tight bowling and in near-darkness at 7.45pm.

CRICKET: BRAVE EAGLES BROUGHT DOWN AT THE LAST AFTER LANCASHIRE ALL-ROUNDER'S DEVASTATING ASSAULT

Flintoff flays Essex in brutal style

By PAT GIBSON

CHELMSFORD (Essex won toss): *Lancashire Lightning* (4pts) beat *Essex Eagles* by three runs

IF ANY England player is going to capture the public imagination during the forthcoming World Cup it will be Andrew Flintoff, judging by the way that the big Lancashire all-rounder blitzed Essex in his only CGU National League match before reporting for national service next Sunday.

Flintoff, still only 21 but built like a tank, scored 143 off 66 balls, hitting nine sixes and 15 fours with strokes of such awesome power that not only the fielders but also the umpires were often in grave physical peril. Indeed, when Nigel Plews called Ashley Cowan for overstepping, it was probably the first instance of an umpire signalling a no-ball with his head tucked underneath his arm as the ball flashed past mid-wicket.

John Crawley, the Lancashire captain, looked on in admiration from the other end, yet he was no slouch himself, making 84 off 108 balls, including eight fours, and sharing a stand of 179 in 20 overs that lifted Lancashire to a total of 301 for six.

It had been a gallant attempt to retrieve a lost cause, but the day belonged to Flintoff, who has matured impressively during the winter after looking completely out of his depth in his first two Test matches against South Africa last summer.

By the end of the season his weight had soared to almost 19 stone because of his long-standing back trouble and he was demoted to the A team for the tour of Zimbabwe and South Africa. He did so well, however, that he was added to the World Cup squad after being left off the provisional list.

Since then he has scored a century against England in one of their warm-up matches in Lahore, forced his way into the one-day side in Sharjah and now shown that he is in prime form. The Essex Eagles had been expecting a visit from Lancashire Lightning. They had not expected thunder as well.

The subsequent free hit, awarded under the rules of this competition and promptly dispatched the same way, seemed entirely superfluous, since Flintoff was hitting everything with absolute freedom on his way to 50 out of 59 off 24 balls, and 100 out of 148 off 50.

The second of his two sixes off Peter Such cleared the Torn

Pearce Stand and disappeared into the River Can 100 yards away. Another six off Cowan, in the over that contained the no-ball, the free hit and two more balls besides, landed on top of the hospitality tents beyond the long-on boundary.

He also struck two sixes off Paul Grayson, the second — which took him to his century — cannoning off the same stand and endangering a fielder as it rebounded. The other four sixes came off Stuart Law, who did at least have Flintoff stumped, heaving towards his mid-wicket.

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Flintoff hits Law for four on his way to a magnificent century at Chelmsford yesterday

Progress in dispute over Test grounds

By RICHARD HOBSON

THE lengthy dispute between the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) and the Test Match Grounds Consortium (TMGC), which is threatening to disrupt the forthcoming series against New Zealand, has moved a step towards a resolution. Negotiators for the TMGC are prepared to reduce their demands this season as part of a longer-term deal.

Later this week, the TMGC, which seeks a greater share of the central budget to pay for maintenance and improvements at the six Test venues, will discuss an ECB offer covering international matches in England until 2002.

Staging agreements for the four Tests against New Zealand remain unsigned little more than two months before the start of the series. It has been suggested that matches might be switched to venues such as Chester-le-Street and Cardiff.

However, one member of the TMGC said yesterday: "Generally, both sides are moving in the right direction and the talks are positive. We are prepared to concede quite a lot of ground for this year for the good of the game on the understanding that it is part of a four-year package."

England will have to wait until next season if they want Bob Woolmer to succeed David Lloyd as the team coach. Woolmer, whose contract with South Africa expires after the World Cup in June, has agreed to work as a commentator for Talk Radio during England's winter tour of South Africa.

He was reluctant anyway, to use his inside knowledge against what will be his former employers so soon after leaving the post.

Hooper takes his leave

CARL HOOPER 32, the West Indies batsman and off spinner, has retired from international cricket less than three weeks before the World Cup is due to begin in England. Hooper, who missed the start of the recent Test series by remaining in Australia, where his son was seriously ill, has yet to give his reasons for retirement to the West Indies Cricket Board.

Earlier, Gloucestershire lost six wickets in 21 balls as White and Sidebottom scythed through the lower order. Dawson bludgeoned 21 from Hamilton's first over, but the dismissal of Hardwick-Lewis figure, which was highly relevant, on the scoreboard and both teams, with umpires, wore dull blue.

Yorkshire were easing towards a modest target of 146 when Craig White followed bowling figures of four for 25 with a score of 49 from 39 balls. However, the slower pace of Alleyne and Averis proved to be more effective than the new-ball attack and the initiative swung.

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This is another blow to West Indies in their preparations for the World Cup, for it follows the uncertainty over whether Brian Lara, the captain, will be fit to take part because of a persistent and painful wrist injury.

"Carl will be very difficult to replace," Clive Lloyd, the West Indies manager, said, "but his absence will give somebody else a chance to show their talents. It is unfortunate because he has been an excellent player."

Before the news was announced, West Indies won 3-2 down in the one-day series against Australia on Saturday when they were beaten by four wickets in Bridgetown. Barbados' Shane Warne took three for 28 in his ten overs over as the West Indies wasted a excellent start — Sherwin Campbell and Ridley Jacobs scored 81 from the first 11 overs — by allowing themselves to be restricted to 249 for five.

A robust innings from Adam Gilchrist, who made 64, got Australia off to a bright start and although the sixth wicket fell with the score at 206, Michael Bevan, with an unbeaten 35, got Australia home with nine balls to spare.

Spitfires grounded by Stephenson

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

JOHN STEPHENSON hit an unbeaten 71 as he and Robin Smith, 26, guided Hampshire Hawks to victory over Kent Spitfires at Southampton yesterday.

Stephenson struck 11 boundaries and faced 82 balls as Hampshire made light of two significant interruptions

and it was only then that Kent started to score freely. Mark Ealham and Matthew Fleming each scored 36.

Alex Morris was Hampshire's most successful bowler, taking three for 59, while Nixon McLean, the West Indies pace bowler, conceded only 26 runs from his nine overs.

Stephenson and Giles White put on 77 in only 19 overs for Hampshire until

Julian Thompson made the first breakthrough for Kent when he had White lbw for 25. Smith then joined Stephenson and Hampshire were moving smoothly to their target when the first break for rain arrived.

The home side were on course for their new target of 156 from 34 overs when rain intervened again. They were then 130 for one, still needing 26 from another six overs but, this time, there was no reprieve for Kent.

SHARPS SUFFER FROM TEETHING PROBLEMS

HOVE (Derbyshire won toss): *Sussex Sharks* (4pts) beat *Derbyshire Scorpions* by 11 wickets

HOVE (Derbyshire won toss): *Sussex Sharks* (4pts) beat *Derbyshire Scorpions* by 11 wickets

DO FREITAS, Dean and Cork. Three Derbyshire free hits produced six extra runs but, with nothing any public address acknowledgement many in the crowd remained in ignorance.

Cork's combative half-century was trumped by Adams. Montgomery and Sidwell, with a score of 49 from 39 balls. However, the slower pace of Alleyne and Averis proved to be more effective than the new-ball attack and the initiative swung.

Earlier, Gloucestershire lost six wickets in 21 balls as White and Sidebottom scythed through the lower order. Dawson bludgeoned 21 from Hamilton's first over, but the dismissal of Hardwick-Lewis figure, which was highly relevant, on the scoreboard and both teams, with umpires, wore dull blue.

This is another blow to West Indies in their preparations for the World Cup, for it follows the uncertainty over whether Brian Lara, the captain, will be fit to take part because of a persistent and painful wrist injury.

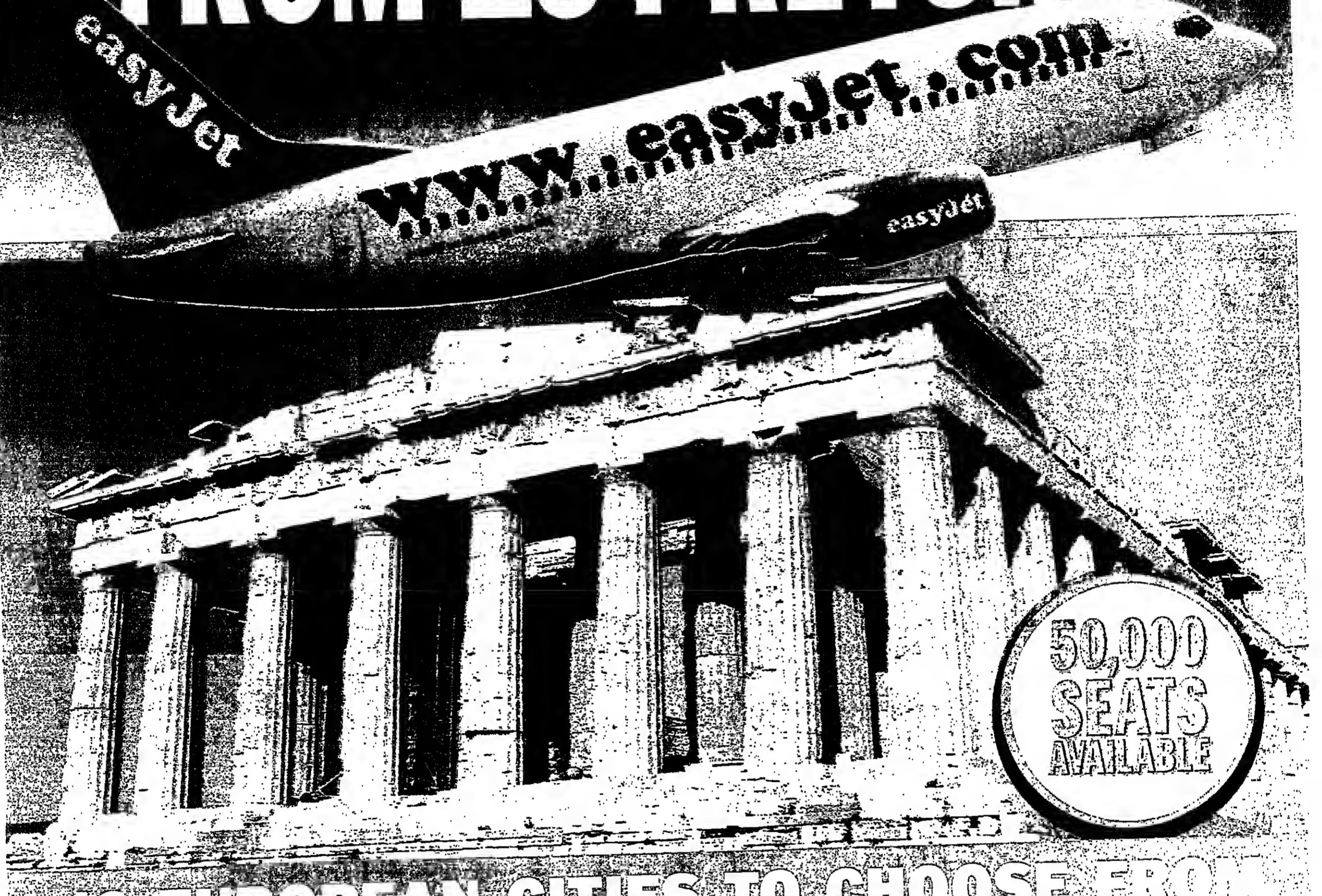
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glers'

Court of Appeal

Law Report April 26 1999

Queen's Bench Divisional Court

Summary assessment of costs

Practice Note (Court of Appeal, Civil Division: Assessment of costs)

Following the introduction of the Civil Procedure Rules (SI 1998 No 303) on April 26, 1999, the Court of Appeal would identify those appeals which appeared to be suitable for the summary assessment of costs and notify the parties accordingly.

Parties to appeals would not, therefore, need to file statements of costs unless they were informed by the Court of Appeal that that was required. However, parties could propose by letter to the court that a summary assessment might be suitable and, if the court agreed, it would ask for statements of costs to be filed.

The Court of Appeal would, in future, be more likely than before to make orders for costs which reflected the fact that a party, while successful in general on the appeal, had been unsuccessful in relation to certain issues.

Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, sitting in the Court of Appeal with Lord Justice Auld and Lord Justice Robert Walker, so stated in a practice note handed down on April 21.

Prosecutor's duty to disclose

Regina v Director of Public Publications, Ex parte Lee

Before Lord Justice Kennedy, Mr Justice Blofeld

Judgment March 18

In cases triable only on indictment, there existed in the period between arrest and committal, a continuing duty on a responsible prosecutor to ascertain whether immediate disclosure was required in the interests of justice and fairness, in accordance with the Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act 1996.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court said allowing an application for judicial review of the decision of the Crown Prosecution Service, on December 21, 1998, not to disclose unused material, prior to the committal for trial of Roger Lee on a charge of murder.

Mrs James Turner, QC and Mr James Roberts for Mr Lee; Mr Jeremy Carter-Manning, QC and Mr Christopher Kinch for the Director of Public Prosecutions.

LORD JUSTICE KENNEDY said that:

1 The 1996 Act considerably reduced the ability of the defence to take an active part in committal proceedings, so the need for disclosure prior to committal was also reduced.

2 Part 1 of the 1996 Act introduced a completely new regime in relation to disclosure. It replaced most if

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS stated that Part 44 ("General Rules about Costs") of the Civil Procedure Rules 1998 (see Civil Procedure (Sweet and Maxwell 1999 pp 41-43)) and its accompanying practice direction did not explicitly set out the extent to which the provisions on the summary assessment of costs applied to the Court of Appeal, Civil Division.

This practice note therefore outlines the position that the Court of Appeal would be taking with regard to the summary assessment of costs from April 26.

Paragraph 4.3 of the direction relating to Part 44 explained (at p 476) that, in first instance courts, whenever a court made an order about costs which did not provide for fixed costs to be paid, the court should consider whether to make a summary assessment of costs.

The Court of Appeal fully supported that approach as an appropriate means of disposing of costs quickly and openly.

However, the position was less straightforward in the Court of Appeal. The Court of Appeal was therefore concerned to ensure that it operated a system which avoided putting parties to the unnecessary

expense of preparing statements of costs in cases which were unsuitable for a summary assessment.

To achieve that aim, the Court of Appeal itself would identify those cases which appeared to be suitable for summary assessment of costs and would notify the relevant parties accordingly. If the court agreed, it would ask for statements of costs to be filed.

Partial orders for costs

Although the Court of Appeal did not propose to make a summary assessment of costs, the Court of Appeal might nonetheless make orders for costs which reflected the fact that a party to the application, while successful in general on the appeal, had been unsuccessful in relation to certain issues.

After April 26, the Court of Appeal would be more likely than hitherto to make orders for costs which reflected the outcome in relation to different issues.

It should be noted, however,

that the fact that the Court of Appeal might have requested statements of costs did not place an obligation on the court to assess costs summarily.

That could be determined only when the parties' statements of costs were available and the dispute to which any items were known.

In addition, the fact that the

Court of Appeal had not invited parties to file statements of costs did not prevent parties who agreed on that proposing by letter to the court that a summary assessment might be suitable. If the court agreed, it would ask for statements of costs to be filed.

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Off-site planning condition valid

Davenport v HammerSmith and Fulham LBC

Before Lord Justice Rose and Mr Justice Richards

Judgment March 23

A planning permission condition relating to land that was outside an application site or that was outside the control of the applicant for such permission was valid so long as it could be complied with.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court held in refusing the appeal of John Davenport from their conviction by West London Magistrates on March 11 for breach of a planning condition notice.

JOSEPH DAVENPORT had been

granted planning permission for motor vehicle repair facilities in Tasso Road in west London with various conditions including that "no vehicles which have been left with or are in the control of the applicant shall be stored or parked in Tasso Road".

Tasso Road was outside the application site and not under the control of either appellant. John Davenport as well as several of Joseph Davenport's employees were seen to work at Tasso Road and then park them at Tasso Road.

Mr Richard Harwood for the appellants; Mr Michael Bedford for the local authority.

MR JUSTICE RICHARDS said that in *Marshall Superannuation Fund Trustees v Oxfordshire County Council*

v. *Cougo* [1992] 1 PLR 67, 105

Lord Justice Cougo had said:

"A condition purporting to require the carrying out of works on land neither within the application site nor within the control of the applicant is outside the powers of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990."

Mr Harwood said that it was the same underlying condition in the present case.

His Lordship said that the court in that case had based its decision on a planning condition that had required the applicant to secure more than he could be assured of.

The appellants in the present case were plainly able to comply with the condition. To complain of the condition they clearly did not

need to have control over the land. They were nothing to show that a condition relating to land outside an application site or outside the control of the applicant was invalid unless the condition could not be assured of compliance. In relation to that issue the justices had been correct to reject the appellants' submissions.

The notice in relation to John Davenport was not valid because it was not a condition regarding the use of the relevant land and his appeal was allowed but that did not affect the position of Joseph Davenport.

Lord Justice Rose agreed. Solicitors: William Sturges & Co Mr Cornelius Mahoney, Hamersmith.

Directions supplement new civil rules

Practice Directions (Civil Procedure Rules)

Practice directions supplementing the Civil Procedure Rules [SI 1998 No 3132] (Civil Procedure [Sweet and Maxwell 1999]) come into force on April 26, 1999.

They apply to civil litigation in the Queen's Bench Division and the Chancery Division of the High Court and to litigation in county courts other than family proceedings. Some of the practice directions apply to appeals to the Court of Appeal.

The practice directions were made on April 23:

(i) by the Lord Chief Justice as president of the Queen's Bench Division

(ii) by the Master of the Rolls as

president of the civil division of the Court of Appeal

(iii) by the Vice-Chancellor as vice-president of the Chancery Division

(iv) by the Vice-Chancellor, on behalf of the Lord Chancellor, pursuant to section 5 of the Civil Procedural Rules

The listed practice directions replace previous practice directions relating to civil litigation in the relevant divisions. However, the Queen's Bench Masters Practice Directions and the Queen's Bench Practice Directions, set out in *The Supreme Court Practice 1999* (Volume 2, sections 2A and 2C) were in the course of revision and would, except to the extent that they were inconsistent with the Civil Procedure Rules and the practice directions listed herewith, continue to apply for the time being.

The rules of the practice directions and the Civil Procedure Rule Part numbers they supplement are:

Court Officers; and Allocation of Cases to Levels of Judiciary [Part 2] Striking out a Statement of Case [3]

Forms [4] Court Documents [5] Service [6] How to Start Proceedings - The Claim Form; Consumer Credit Act; Claim; Production; Centre; and Claims for the Recovery of Taxes [7]

Alternative Procedure for Claims; and How to make Claims in Schedule; Rules and other Claims [8] Acknowledgement of Service [10]

Default Judgement [12] Admissions [14] Defence and Reply [15] Statements of Case [16] Amendments to Statements of Case [17] Further Information [18] Addition and Substitution of Parties [19] Counterclaims and Other Part 20 Claims [20] Children and Patients [21] Statements of Truth [22] Applications [23] The Summary Disposal of Claims [24] Interim Injunctions; interim Payments; and Accounts and Inquiries [25] Case Management - Preliminary Stage; Allocation and Re-allocation [26] Small Claims Track [27] The Fast Track [28] The Multi-track [29] Transfer [30] Disclosure and Inspection [31] Written Evidence [32] Civil Evidence Act 1995 [33]

The consolidation by the Court of Appeal of all its principal practice directions would greatly improve the accessibility of information about civil appeals by ensuring that court users and judges need refer to only one document for directions or guidance.

Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, so stated on April 19 when, sitting in the Court of Appeal with Lord Justice Auld and Lord Justice Robert Walker, he handed down the 15-page document due to come in to force on April 26, 1999.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that the Court of Appeal had taken another step in the process of modernising the civil jus-

tice system. It had consolidated all

its principal practice directions, with some minor amendments, into one single document.

All individual civil division practice directions previously in force should be superseded by this practice direction. That would greatly improve the accessibility of information about civil appeals.

The consolidation of existing practice directions would also facilitate the review of the current rules on civil appeals, in particular, Order 59 of the Rules of the Supreme Court, which had not yet been fully incorporated into the new Civil Procedure Rules.

Revised rules and practice directions for appeals would be implemented early next year as part of the second phase of the civil justice reforms.

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Case Management - Preliminary Stage; Allocation and Re-allocation [26]

Small Claims Track [27]

The Fast Track [28]

The Multi-track [29]

Transfer [30]

Disclosure and Inspection [31]

Written Evidence [32]

Civil Evidence Act 1995 [33]

Other Practice Directions: Court of Appeal (brought into effect by the Master of the Rolls on April 19); Protocols; Insolvency Proceedings; Directors Disqualification Proceedings; The Use of the Welsh Language in Wales; Chancery Division Practice Directions (Sections C and D of the Chancery Guide).

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DRIVERS

	GROUP A	GROUP B
01 M Hakkinen	172 213	07 E Irvine
02 M Schumacher	151 257	08 D Piquet
03 D Hill	26 28	09 G Fisichella
04 D Coulthard	27 53	10 J Alesi
05 A Zanardi	44 66	11 J Herbert
06 J Villeneuve	29 48	12 R Schumacher

* Replaced Mike Salo. ** Stéphane Sarrazin replaced Luca Badoer for the Brazilian Grand Prix only.

CONSTRUCTORS

	GROUP C	GROUP D
23 McLaren	10 -10	26 Jordan
24 Ferrari	25 45	27 Benetton
25 Williams	13 27	28 Sauber

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THE FACTS

Market capitalisation: £5.7 billion.
Annual sales: £2.77 billion.
Pre-tax profits: £218.7 million.
Employees: 21,000
Business: UK-based retailing group specialising in selling high-technology consumer electronics, personal computers, domestic appliances and photographic and telecoms equipment.

THE BOARD

Sir Stanley Kalms, chairman since 1971, has been responsible for the development of the group from a one-store, family business. He now leaves most of the running of the business to **John Clare**, chief executive. He joined in 1985 as marketing director. He became managing director a year later, group managing director in 1992 and chief executive in 1994.

Mark Soutar, deputy chairman, has been with the group for 29 years. He was appointed managing director of the retail division in 1973 and group managing director from 1986-92. He is also chairman of the British Retail Consortium.

Ian Livingstone, finance director since 1998, was appointed to the board in 1997. Aged 35 and by far the youngest of the Dixons directors, he qualified as a chartered accountant with Arthur Andersen.

David Hamid, who joined in 1986, is the managing director of Dixons group commercial services. He is responsible for Mastercare, the after-sales side of the business.

David Gilbert, the managing director of Currys, joined the company in 1981. He has worked throughout the group as operations director and marketing director.

The non-executive directors are made up of **John Curry**, the executive chairman of Acal, **Sir Tim Chesser**, who is also chairman of the Legal Aid board, and **Karen Cook**, the co-head of UK corporate finance at Schroders, the merchant bank.

DIXONS has already claimed its place on the list of wonder stocks of 1999. By mid-April, its shares had risen nearly 100 per cent in value since the beginning of the year to the dizzy heights of nearly £16.

Of course, it is Freeserve, the free Internet access service Dixons launched late last year, rather than its retail business, that has spurred the share price. Dixons has now asked its bankers, Credit Suisse First Boston, and Cazenove & Co, the brokers, to look into a multibillion pound flotation of Freeserve. They could come up with a valuation of somewhere between £2 billion and £3 billion.

The wind has rather been taken out of the Dixons sails in the past fortnight. Doubts about how to achieve a fair valuation of Freeserve, which is set to break even only this year and to make a small profit next year, plus the stalling of the Wall Street technology stock rally, knocked its share price off its peak. But those who bought at the beginning of the year will still be flush.

If Freeserve were somehow to be split off from Dixons, through a partial sale, flotation or joint venture, it would have the benefit of giving the market a chance to evaluate the core retailing business properly. It is doing well, but the fuss over Freeserve has left it in the shadows.

John Clare, group chief executive, points out that, although there has already been a huge share price spike this year, the group has actually been on a reasonably steady upward curve since 1994. Windfall spending from building society conversions gave a huge boost to sales two years ago, and they subsequently fell back. Since then, trade has gone back to a smooth upward track.

The turning point for Dixons' fortunes came when it sold its American retailing business in 1993, six years after buying it. Silo, or Your Electronic Superstore, as it was renamed, was an unmitigated disaster for Dixons. Mr Clare remembers it as a "nightmare".

Withdrawal from the States cost Dixons £300 million in all, and a great deal of credibility. Since then, Dixons has not made any overseas acquisitions, except in the Irish Republic. "When we came back from America, we had our tails between our legs and said we'd focus back on the UK. The strategy has delivered," Mr Clare says.

The Freeserve venture is a



Sir Stanley Kalms, chairman, left, and John Clare, chief executive, have seen shares in Dixons, the electrical retailer, reach nearly £16 this year, boosted by the growth in Internet stocks. Dixons is now considering floated Freeserve

big step away from the British high streets and retail parks for Dixons. Its success could encourage other such strategic leaps and this could lead to some expansion overseas again. America was a failure, and if Dixons were to try expanding in western Europe, it would quickly come up against Kingfisher, which has a large European electricals business built around Darty, the French market leader, and Comet in the UK.

Dixons and Kingfisher went through a period, ten to fifteen years ago, when their fates were closely intertwined. Dixons made a £1.8 billion bid for Kingfisher in 1986, when it was still named Woolworth Holdings. When that failed, by way of consolidation, Dixons bought Silo. Spotting that the acquisition had been a mistake, Kingfisher struck back with a £568 million hostile bid in 1989.

When that bid failed in turn, Kingfisher consoled itself with the purchase of Darty. Mr Clare says that he would have

loved to have bought Darty, a company that he greatly admires, but Dixons was in no position to do so at the time.

Looking at the Dixons position in the UK, there is little doubt that markets are going in its favour. Lots of new hi-tech products are coming on to the market in the next three years, while others will move into the mainstream. Great things are expected of such

things as digital television, mini-discs and DVD.

"In the early Eighties there was a technology bandwagon. From the second half of the Eighties there was nothing new. We are now standing at the edge of an era when we will get growth," Mr Clare says.

Verdict, the retail consultancy, believes that Dixons, the market leader in the UK, should be a beneficiary of the

explosion in new products, as it has a format to match each growth area. In personal computers it has PC World, in telecommunications it has The Link, in games it has @Jakarta.

Sir Stanley Kalms, whose father founded Dixons with a photographic studio in 1937, is still chairman of the company, and remains as enthusiastic about new developments as ever. Now aged 67, he works out of the Dixons central London office, while Mr Clare runs the group from the Hendon Hampstead headquarters.

When Sir Stanley took Dixons to the London Stock Exchange in 1962 it was still a photographic business, with 16 branches. It was not until five years later that Japanese audio and hi-fi units appeared in the Dixons range. Expansion continued, and in 1984 the Currys Group was acquired.

It added 613 retail outlets to the group, together with Mastercare, the electrical appliance service organisation.

The Dixons conundrum is

that it has overcome its American mistake to become phenomenally successful. The stock market loves it to pieces, but the general public does not. Customers flock to Dixons shops, but on the whole have not taken them to their hearts.

Mr Clare acknowledges this, but says that Dixons is doing its best, and has to cope with some formidable difficulties. He admits: "I'd like to establish a reputation and image with the consumer that is better than the one we've got. We're the best regarded in the sector, but not as highly regarded as other sectors."

The main reason is the products. We sell products that go wrong and that people have difficulty in understanding." Although staff turnover is not bad for the sector, at about 20 per cent per annum, the churn of sales staff can cause problems.

As so many of the products sold by Dixons involve servicing at some point, it also sells extended warranties. It is always wary of saying how

much money it makes on these warranties — another factor that has aroused public mistrust.

Customers are also constantly suspicious that Dixons' prices are unfairly high. Despite the company's protestations that it operates on very low margins, Peter Mandelson, when he was Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, drew the Office of Fair Trading's attention to accusations that Dixon's was overcharging.

Dixons and the OFT have had one meeting to discuss the issue, and nothing more has been said. There is no inquiry, nor is there anything to say that the company has been exonerated. Given the Government's enthusiasm for defending the rights of the consumer, there seems a reasonable chance that the competition regulators will eventually turn their full attention to the electricals market, particularly personal computers.

Dixons has certainly built itself a very strong position within its markets. Verdict reckons that it has grown its share of the entire electricals market from 17.3 per cent in 1994 to 27 per cent. The move by Asda and Tesco into electrical retailing has had no noticeable impact, and Mr Clare is confident that neither supermarket operator actually makes money on it. "Electrical retailing is a very easy market in which to secure sales, but it is very difficult to make money," he says.

Integrity Works praised Dixons' "long-established and progressive approach to ethical expression," adding: "Starting at the top and through its sponsorship of a chair in business ethics, it has spelt out that in its view 'good' business begins and ends with integrity."

Crisp Consulting said that Sir Stanley's pay of £850,000 a year is well under par for his long experience, and the other directors are paid reasonably.

SARAH CUNNINGHAM

DIXONS	
Ethical Expression	8/10
Fat-cat quotient	10/10
Financial record	6/10
Share performance	10/10
Attitude to staff	7/10
Strength of brand	8/10
Innovation	9/10
Annual report	6/10
City star rating	7/10
Future prospects	9/10
Total	80/100
Ethical expression is evaluated by Integrity Works. The fat-cat quotient, in which best companies pay practice scores highest, is provided by Crisp Consulting.	

Crystal Palace's Goldberg loses £7m as companies are liquidated

BY JASON NISSE

MARK GOLDBERG, the 35-year-old computer recruitment entrepreneur who presided over the collapse of Crystal Palace football club, has lost more than £7 million in a series of business ventures that have been placed into liquidation in the past few weeks.

In addition to losing an estimated £22 million when Crystal Palace went into administration last month, Mr Goldberg has suffered huge losses in a series of badly run business ventures.

The losses incurred by Mr Goldberg this year will have more than wiped out the money that he made from selling a 12 per cent stake in MSB International, the recruitment firm that he founded, for £23.8 million last year.

Mr Goldberg is almost certain to sell his remaining million shares in MSB in the next few weeks. MSB shares rose 29p to 220p on Friday, ahead of the company reporting its full-year results tomorrow.

The figures are expected to show MSB thriving without Mr Goldberg — who resigned from the company last July — and reporting profits, before



Mark Goldberg lost £22 million when Crystal Palace football club went into administration

exceptional costs and tax, of £11.5 million.

All in all, eight companies controlled by Mr Goldberg have been placed in liquidation over the past seven weeks. These include Data Scanning, a technology start-up venture; Lands Development Corporation, a property company, and

various sports management companies.

The liquidators, David Rubin and Partners, estimate that Mr Goldberg has lost £7.3 million in these ventures. The losses of other creditors are estimated at between £1.8 million and £2 million, and the Inland Revenue and Customs and Ex-

cise are believed to have lost about £500,000.

Mr Rubin said that it appears that the companies had been "run by remote control". He said that Mr Goldberg had been "astonishingly naive for a businessman".

The losses this year do not represent the first time that

Mr Goldberg has been in financial difficulty. In 1991 he presided over the collapse of two ventures — MSB Appointments (London), which was liquidated with a deficit of £873,000, and Aquamarine Hotel (Brighton), which had a deficit of £306,000.

As a result of this, Mr Goldberg faced bankruptcy over debts he had incurred totalling £1.07 million. He agreed an Individual Voluntary Arrangement (IVA) with his creditors, by which they were paid only £30,000 to clear his debts.

This IVA was disclosed in the prospectus for MSB's flotation, but is not well known.

Simon Paterson, of Moore Stephens Booth White, administrator of Crystal Palace, admitted that he was not aware of the IVA when he took on the appointment at the First Division football club, but that he had since been told about it. He is working on a plan to restructure the club's finances so that it can resume combat in the First Division next season.

Mr Goldberg — who last week charged Crystal Palace fans £5 each to attend a public meeting about the club and has hired a bodyguard — was unavailable for comment.

Search for top valuation spurs technology firms to look for US listings

BY CHRIS AYRES

MANY of Britain's fastest-growing technology companies are considering abandoning their homeland to float on the Nasdaq stock market in the US, authoritative research out today shows.

The research, carried out by Deloitte & Touche, the chartered accountants, to find Britain's 50 fastest-growing technology companies, found that many businesses felt they would achieve significantly higher valuations in the US than in London.

Deloitte's findings will once again highlight the relative lack of financial research into the technology sector in Britain, and the reluctance of British investors to embrace high-risk, high-reward ventures.

In spite of this, however, Deloitte found that London markets were slowly becoming more attractive to technology companies, thanks to the increasingly high profile of businesses such as Freeserve, the free Internet access company expected to join the London stock market this summer.

At the top of Deloitte's Fast

50 list is Eidos, the computer games company behind the hit title *Tomb Raider*, which is currently being made into a Hollywood film.

Eidos was founded in 1990

by Simon Streater, a former Ministry of Defence software engineer, and turned into a commercial success by Ian Livingstone, one of the founders of the Games Workshop retail chain, and Charles Corwall, a South African corporate financier. The company, which is quoted on Nasdaq as well as in London, achieved astonishing sales growth of 29.637 per cent between 1995 and 1997.

In second place is Data Discoveries, an Edinburgh software company, which saw sales grow by 7.117 per cent during the same period. The company produces business software that can confirm the names and addresses of customers.

Behind Data Discoveries is Network Disaster Recovery, an IT company founded only five years ago that helps its clients to guard against their

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ELECTRONICS

Challenge the Limits.

Data contradict official earnings growth figures

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

FRESH doubts about the pace of earnings growth emerged today with new data showing that wage deals in both the manufacturing and service sectors slowed sharply in the first quarter of this year.

The findings contradict the official average earnings data published last week and are likely to reopen the debate about the accuracy of the official data, which were only re-stated last month after a four-month suspension.

The Confederation of British Industry pay bank shows manufacturing pay growth falling to 3.0 per cent in the three months to March 1999 compared with 3.1 per cent in the last quarter of 1998. Service sector wage growth also eased lower, falling to 3.6 per cent in the first quarter compared with 4.4 per cent in December 1998.

In contrast, the official figures showed annual wage growth climbing to 4.6 per cent in the three months to February, after an upwardly revised figure of 4.5 per cent in January.

The ONS blamed the "exceptional" revision on an unexpected late surge of corporate returns. Large bonus payments also seemed to have pushed the overall figures upwards with the annual growth in February alone placed as high as 5 per cent.

Many City analysts seized on the data as evidence that the Bank should now call a halt to its rate-cutting spree. The Bank has repeatedly said that earnings growth above 4.5 per cent is incompatible with the level of the minimum wage.

Recent minutes from the Monetary Policy Committee have suggested, however, that the Bank is still not fully convinced of the accuracy of official data and still places high importance on other pay surveys such as the CBI's and its own pay database.

The CBI said its survey, although the most comprehensive of its kind, was not directly comparable to the official data. It includes a bonus element only if changes to bonus

schemes are an integral part of settlements.

Kate Barker, chief economic adviser, said the data still confirmed a lack of inflationary pressures. "With the latest official data indicating a weakening labour market we would expect settlements to decline further over the next few months."

A separate report from the Institute for Manufacturing argues that wage growth could be pushed higher because of the political temptation in offer future large increases in the value of the minimum wage.

The institute says there are doubts over how the mechanism to increase low pay will be used. Its exact details have been left vague. The Government said only that future increases will take into account the "economic circumstances of the time". The institute says: "An obvious danger is that, at some future date, an unreasonably large increase in the minimum wage will be a tempting electoral promise for one or other party."

Smith in China to tackle CD pirates

BY RAYMOND SNOODY
MEDIA EDITOR

HONG KONG has seen an explosion of CD piracy since the handover of the colony to China, according to Chris Smith, the Culture, Media and Sport Secretary, who is leading a top-level delegation of British television, film and record industry executives to mainland China and Hong Kong this week. He believes Hong Kong, Macao and Eastern Europe are now the worst areas of the world for CD and software piracy.

Before handing over an estimated 60 million CDs a year were pirated in Hong Kong. One recent seizure involved 22 million CDs and the capacity of the Hong Kong industry is now one billion CDs a year although not all are counterfeit.

The Culture Secretary hopes to persuade the Hong Kong authorities to involve the police as well as Customs officials in stamping out piracy. Mr Smith will also raise the issue of piracy with the Chinese Government in Beijing because of high levels of



The Bill is one of the few British television programmes to be broadcast in China

CD, software and film piracy in China.

Although the Chinese authorities have been making progress in protecting copyright the total legitimate demand for all CD formats is 46 million units compared with the current estimated capacity of 275 million units.

Mr Smith hopes to open up the Chinese market for British

films and television programmes and make it easier to launch British music there. At the moment anyone wanting to sell Western music legitimately in China has to get a number for each individual track from the Ministry of Propaganda.

At the moment China allows less than 70 foreign films to be imported a year, divided roughly half between the US

Chairman of CRS steps down

Peter Rowbotham, the chairman of Co-operative Retail Services, has stepped down. It is suggested that the move is recognition that the movement needs a fresh leader at a time of change.

A spokesman for Mr Rowbotham today rejected claims that the chairman was leaving after disagreeing with Andy Meehan, his chief executive, about strategy.

A successor has not been named, but will come from within the mutual CRS operation. Mr Rowbotham will not be in receipt of compensation for loss of office.

Profit warnings up

MORE than one in ten non-food retailers issued a profit warning in the first quarter of this year as last year's interest rate rises hit sales. Figures from Ernst & Young, the accountancy firm, show that 118 boards in all industries issued warnings, up from 88 in the same quarter of 1998 but down from 126 in the previous three months. The warnings led to an average 16 per cent fall in share price.

Retail site backed

A £100 million retail development in Edinburgh has won detailed planning consent. The consent paves the way for a waterfront shopping and leisure complex with a five-screen cinema, restaurants and a health club. Ocean Terminal will be built by Forth Ports at the Port of Leith, where the Royal Yacht Britannia is berthed. Building will start in the next two months, with the opening due in 2001.

NET PROFITS

www.times-money.co.uk

SB enlists Bristol-Myers to aid new drug's sales drive

BY PAUL DURMAN

SMITHKLINE BEECHAM

has brought in Bristol-Myers Squibb, the large US pharmaceutical group, to help it to make a success of Avandia, its new diabetes treatment.

Bristol-Myers will sell Avandia in the US alongside SB to encourage a rapid take-up of the potential blockbuster seen as vital to the British company's growth. Advisers to the US Food and Drug Administration unanimously recom-

mended on Thursday that Avandia be approved for treating adult-onset diabetes, a problem for almost 15 million Americans.

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tration unanimously recom-

product to physicians and patients faster".

Co-promotion such as this has been a big success for Pfizer, which sells Lipitor, developed by Warner-Lambert, and Celebrex, developed by GD Searle. Lipitor, a cholesterol-lowering drug, and Celebrex, for arthritis, are two of the most successful drugs ever. SB has had less success with the cholesterol-lowering Baycol, sold for Bayer of Germany.

France pressing for Elf and Total tie-up

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

THE FRENCH Government

is pressing for a merger between the French oil giants Elf-Aquitaine and Total-Fina.

The Socialist-led Government believes that a Gallic national merger may be the only way to avert the sale of Elf either to Shell or to Italy's Agip.

Speculation about Elf has been fuelled by reports that Mark Moody-Stuart, Shell's chairman is pondering a bid.

He has been asking pension funds owning about 55 per cent of Elf whether they would back a hostile offer.

Jérôme Jaffré, Elf's chairman, favours a link with Agip,

but analysis say he may be whistling in the wind. Agip and Elf are pretty much the same and it is always difficult to succeed in a merger between equals" Jean-Jacques Lemaire, an EIFB analyst, said.

Elf profits last year fell by about a third to FFr 3.5 billion (£300 million) on turnover 17 per cent down at FFr 21 billion.

The Government, which retains a golden share in Elf, wants to "save" the company through a merger with Total — which last year announced purchasing the Belgian Petrona — but senior managers say their cultures differ too much.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 40

AGRPYNIA
(b) Wakefulness, sleeplessness. An adaptation of the Greek word meaning "without sleep". 1753, Chambers: "Agrypnia, in the Greek church, is used for the vigil of any of the greater feast-days."

BRODEKIN

(c) A high boot reaching about half-way up the calves of the legs. A buskin. Fifteenth-century French, related to the Flemish Thackeray, *Pendennis*, 1850: "From their bonnets to their brodekins."

BUMBASS

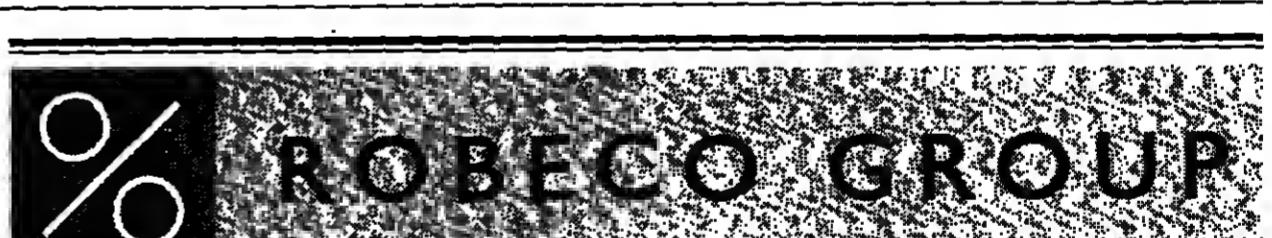
(a) A large projectile to be thrown from a bombard. It must surely be connected with the bomb in bombard. 1655: "A Spring to shoot Bumbasses and Bullets of an hundred pound weight a Steele height."

ABRAHAM'S BALM

(b) An old name of the chastetree (Vitis Agnus castus), a native of the shores of the Mediterranean. 1676: "Abraham's Baum [sic] hath a singular property to procure chastity, for which cause physicians have named it Agnus castus."

SOLUTION TO THE WINNING MOVE

I Rxg61 hxg6 2 Nf7- Kh7 3 g5! and now Black suffers due to the unfortunate position of his rook on c8, e.g. 3... Rg8 4 Qh3+ Kg8 5 Rd7 6 exd+ Kd7 7 Qxc8 and wins.



ROBECO N.V.

Robeco N.V. announce a cash dividend of EUR 1.40 per ordinary share of Fls 10 (EUR 0.14 per sub-share) for the financial year 1998.

BEARER SHARE CERTIFICATES WITH COUPONS ATTACHED

Coupon No. 97 accompanied by the appropriate claim form should be presented to the Company's Paying Agents, National Westminster Bank PLC, NatWest Investments Counter, c/o NatWest Markets, 1st Floor, 135 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 3UR on business days between the hours of 10.00 a.m. and 2.00 p.m. Claims must be submitted by personal presentation. Postal applications cannot be accepted.

The dividend will be payable at EUR 1.40 per share, less tax as appropriate, as from 7 May 1999 against surrender of Coupon No. 97.

SUB-SHARE CERTIFICATES

REGISTERED IN THE NAME OF NATIONAL PROVINCIAL BANK (NOMINEES) LIMITED

United Kingdom Banks and Members of the Stock Exchange should lodge the special claim form with the National Westminster Bank PLC, NatWest Investments Counter, c/o NatWest Markets, 1st Floor, 135 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 3UR on business days between the hours of 10.00 a.m. and 2.00 p.m. Claims must be submitted by personal presentation. Postal applications cannot be accepted.

Payment of the dividend must be marked on the reverse side of the certificate in accordance with "Marking Name" procedures.

Other claimants must also complete the special claim form and present this at the above address together with the relevant certificate(s) for marking by the National Westminster Bank PLC.

All claims must be submitted by personal presentation. Postal applications cannot be accepted.

The Record Date is 23 April 1999.

Payments of EUR 0.14 per sub-share will be made by National Provincial Bank (Nominees) Limited on or after 7 May 1999 and will be subject to Marking Name commission and tax, as appropriate.

SHARES HELD BY CF-DEPOSITARIES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

In the case of shares of which the dividend sheets were at the close of business on 23 April 1999 in the custody of a United Kingdom Depository admitted by the Central倅or Fondsadministratie B.V., Amsterdam, this dividend will be paid to such Depository on 7 May 1999. Such payment will be made through National Westminster Bank PLC, after receipt by them of a duly completed CF Dividend Claim Form.

CONVERSION OF DUTCH CURRENCY

Payment, in respect of bearer share certificates and sub-share certificates, will be made in sterling at the buying rate of exchange current in London at 2.00 p.m. on 30 April 1999 (Value 7 May 1999). Cf-Shares will also be paid at this rate.

26 April 1999

ROLINCO N.V.

Rolinco N.V. announce a cash dividend of EUR 0.88 per ordinary share of Fls 10 (EUR 0.088 per sub-share) for the financial year 1998.

BEARER SHARE CERTIFICATES WITH COUPONS ATTACHED

Coupon No. 99 accompanied by the appropriate claim form should be presented to the Company's Paying Agents, National Westminster Bank PLC, NatWest Investments Counter, c/o NatWest Markets, 1st Floor, 135 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 3UR on business days between the hours of 10.00 a.m. and 2.00 p.m. Claims must be submitted by personal presentation. Postal applications cannot be accepted.

The dividend will be payable at EUR 0.88 per share, less tax as appropriate, as from 7 May 1999 against surrender of Coupon No. 99.

SUB-SHARE CERTIFICATES REGISTERED IN THE NAME OF NATIONAL PROVINCIAL BANK (NOMINEES) LIMITED

United Kingdom Banks and Members of the Stock Exchange should lodge the special claim form with the National Westminster Bank PLC, NatWest Investments Counter, c/o NatWest Markets, 1st Floor, 135 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 3UR on business days between the hours of 10.00 a.m. and 2.00 p.m. Claims must be submitted by personal presentation. Postal applications cannot be accepted.

Payment of the dividend must be marked on the reverse side of the certificate in accordance with "Marking Name" procedures.

Other claimants must also complete the special claim form and present this at the above address together with the relevant certificate(s) for marking by the National Westminster Bank PLC.

All claims must be submitted by personal presentation. Postal applications cannot be accepted.

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26 April 1999

The Sundays: nothing much to Bragg about

You can have too much of a good thing, of course. When the good thing in question is as deeply serious as *The Life Peer Formerly Known as Melvyn*, that point can arrive surprisingly quickly. Even so, he was an excellent host on *The Sundays*, Channel 4's Saturday night guide to the following morning's papers.

However plodding some of his presenting may be, Lord Bragg is a deft and astute chairman of group discussions. This was what was needed to juggle a panel of opinionated hacks, writers and comics, such as Francis Wheen, Howard Jacobson or Linda Strachan, and the formula worked a treat.

But for the new series he has been replaced by a deranged young Scot called Alan Tyler. Tyler bounds into the studio like some tacky game show host. His every utterance is injected with SPURIOUS URGENCY! He tries to make everything sound like

EXCITING FUN! He thinks it is his duty to cut across the panelists, usually to SHOUT SOMETHING COMPLETELY STUPID. He puts the "thick" in thick Scottish accent. Heavens preserve us, HE THINKS HE'S THE NEXT CHRIS EVANS!

The panelists blinked gently and tried to carry on as if they weren't being hectored by the loony in the Tube compartment, but you could see it was hard going. At the end we learnt of the breaking story that Zoran Djindjic, a Serbian opposition politician, has spoken out against Slobodan Milosevic's conduct in Kosovo. As the last prominent Yugoslav to do this, the journalist Slavko Curuvija, was promptly shot dead, this must have taken courage.

This update was of particular interest to anyone who had seen Correspondent Sloba and Mira on BBC2 earlier in the evening, as both Djindjic and Curuvija

featured prominently on this profile of the President of Yugoslavia and his wife.

Documentary makers always take the risk that their work will be overtaken by events. The reporter Phil Rees and the production team must have felt this acutely as the potential lessons of their carefully assembled materials were blown apart by the first cruise missile. What was doubtless intended as a sober warning, became a chastening explanation of why Nato's strategy has gone so awry.

One image stood out — the skulls of Serb warriors decapitated by their Muslim oppressors embedded in niches in a medieval church wall. A deep and violent sense of ancient injustice and unrighted wrongs, bitter grievances ossified into symbols and nurtured over centuries — these has been the fuel of Slobodan Milosevic's rise to power, remorse-

REVIEW



Paul Hoggart

lessly pushed by his wife Mira. Ferdinand and Imelda Marcos, Bill and Hillary Clinton, Neil and Christine Hamilton — the pairing of the amoral opportunist and the driven ambitious wife is an archetype. Their schoolmates called Sloba and Mira "Romeo and Juliet", so cloyingly were they devoted to each other, but they turn out to be more like the Macbeths. Both are tormented by private

ghosts. His uncle, father and mother all committed suicide. Her mother betrayed her partisan comrades under Gestapo torture, an offence for which her father, Mira's granddad, personally shot her.

The most worrying underlying message was that they were fundamentally unstable, ruthless and operating outside the norms of rational, decent behaviour. Her ambition for him is all-consuming, and she is known to dominate his political will. He is, by this account, a hollow opportunist and together, they have spun a spider's web of political and financial corruption. You could dismiss this as Nazi propaganda, except that the witnesses included many important former friends and allies whom the couple have manipulated or betrayed. Above all we were shown that Sloba and Mira have always used external conflict to bolster their position. At a time when their grip might have been weaken-

ing, the cluster bombs have fallen like manna from heaven.

Being relatively new to this job, and working from home, I have spent very little time in the offices of *The Times* and have never met the Editor, Peter Stothard, the subject of Nick Danziger's *In the Establishment* (Channel 4, Saturday). So I watched with a mixture of rubber-necking fascination and some apprehension in case the programme showed my employer in an unexpectedly bad light.

Filmed across the furor over the serialisation of *Gita Sereny's* book on the child-murderer Mary Bell, the film might have laid the Editor open to some uncomfortable criticisms. In the event I would be surprised if he wasn't rather pleased with a portrait that proved to be respectful and appreciative.

The only dissenting voices came from the mother of Mary Bell's

victim ("All this is about money") and the veteran letter writer Captain Kimm, who thought the paper had behaved hypocritically ("Shame on you all"). Danziger's technique of running the commentary over black-and-white stills lent an air of gravitas and the programme ended with the satisfaction of a big scoop, obtained by completely ethical means.

I enjoy Roger Cook's exposés. There is something about the inevitability of it all. Cook's tone of shocked indignation, the secret films, the "Gorchas" denouements, that border on the comic.

Leeks, Stocks, Burglars and Fences (ITV, Friday) was gratifyingly true to form with the unfeeling old agent provocateur setting up, *Inter alia*, a formidable lady burglar and a bent jeweller. Maybe all police work should be conducted like this, with the cost of operations being covered by advertising revenue.

BBC1
6.00am Business Breakfast (79658)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (41133)
9.00 Kirby (T) (503628)
9.45 Celebrity Ready, Steady, Cook (T) (185997)
10.15 The Vanessa Show (T) (4790210)
11.00 News; Weather (T) (5484930)
11.05 City Hospital (T) (9601959)
11.55 News; Weather (T) (8441602)
12.00 Going for a Song (T) (6734189)
12.25pm Just a Minute (T) (5584668)
12.30 The Weather Show (T) (11191084)
1.00 News; Weather (T) (44220)
1.30 Regional News; Weather (5853935)
1.40 Neighbours (T) (16780133)
2.05 Ironside (T) (1678591)
2.55 Through the Keyhole (T) (2644046)
3.25 Children's BBC: Playdays (807430)
3.45 Bob the Builder (560794) 3.55 Wildlife (4) 4.00 Badger and Sagger (5365976) 4.15 Casper (7848171) 4.25 5050 (7079175) 5.00 Newsround (5001572) 5.10 Blue Peter (3822171)
5.35 Neighbours (T) (171022)
6.00 Six O'Clock News; Weather (T) (249)
6.30 Regional News Magazine (201)
7.00 A Question of Sport Olympic gold medalist Steve Redgrave and Manchester United's Terry Sheringham join team captains Ally McCoist and John Parrott for another round of sporting trivia. Hosted by Sue Barker (T) (7628)
7.30 The Zoo Keepers (T) (713)
8.00 EastEnders (T) (3046)
8.30 Ground Force The team revisit the owner of a wildlife-filled haven (5981)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News; Regional News; Weather (T) (7107)
9.30 Party Election Broadcast By the Labour Party (T) (346189)
9.35 The Vicar of Dibley A falling tree destroys St. Bernadette's stained glass window, and Geraldine is put in charge of raising funds to replace it. Comedy, with Dawn French (T) (780404)
10.05 Panorama On May 6, Scotland will be invited to elect its first parliament for almost 300 years (T) (992065)
8.00 EastEnders (T) (3046)
8.30 Coronation Street The team revisit the owner of a wildlife-filled haven (5981)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News; Regional News; Weather (T) (7107)
9.30 Party Election Broadcast By the Labour Party (T) (346189)
9.35 The Vicar of Dibley A falling tree destroys St. Bernadette's stained glass window, and Geraldine is put in charge of raising funds to replace it. Comedy, with Dawn French (T) (780404)
10.05 Panorama On May 6, Scotland will be invited to elect its first parliament for almost 300 years (T) (992065)



Aidan Quinn is haunted by ghosts from the past (10.45pm)

10.45 Haunted (1996) A parapsychologist falls for a woman who lives in a haunted house Drama, with Aidan Quinn. Directed by Lewis Gilbert (T) (6885981)
12.25pm Crucible of Terror (1971) Atmospheric chiller about a deranged sculptor who creates life-size statues by killing his models and casting them in bronze. James Bolam and Mike Raven star. Directed by Ted Hooker (194621)
1.55 Weather (727282)
2.00 BBC News 24 (263624)
6.30pm Wales Today (T) (201)
1.55pm-2.00 News (T) (272628)

6.30pm-7.00 Wales Today (T) (201)

1.55pm-2.00 News (T) (272628)

BBC2
7.00am Children's BBC Breakfast Show: Noddy in Toyland (4383) 7.30 Top Cat (857201) 7.55 Blue Peter (883204) 8.20 Dastardly and Muttley (3543065)
8.20 Dastardly and Muttley (3543065) 8.30 Pingu (502200) 8.40 Doctor Dolittle (3028054) 8.50 Highgate (T) (2644046) 9.10 Sportsbank (913404) 9.30 National Geographic (79658)
10.15 ITV News; Weather (T) (2217103)
12.55 Shortland Street (1375951)
1.30 Home and Away (T) (16786317)
1.55 The Jerry Springer Show Outrageous American talk show (T) (5644775)
2.40 Wheel of Fortune (T) (2633930)
3.10 ITV News Headlines (T) (5341289)
3.15 HTV News (T) (5340971)
3.20 CITV: Maisy (5330510) 3.25 Oggy and the Cockroaches (5320133) 3.35 Rupert (2067152) 4.00 The New Scooby-Doo Mysteries (268) 4.30 Postquest (192)
5.00 Home and Away (T) (7) (2300)
5.30 Garden Calendar (T) (404)
5.58 HTV Weather (537572)
6.00 HTV News (T) (51582)
6.25 Party Election Broadcast By the Labour Party (267826)
6.29 Crimestoppers (287826)
6.30 ITV Evening News; Weather (T) (997)
7.00 Wish You Were Here? Antoinette Turner visits肯尼亚's Maasai Mara and Martin Roberts cruises down the Nile (T) (2734)
7.00 Children's BBC: Juniper Jungle (38764713)
7.10 Snooker: World Championship David Vines and Dougie Donnelly introduce quarter-final action (84855626)
7.20 The O Zone Featuring the Backstreet Boys, Welsh band Stereophonics and dance act Basement Jaxx (3642217)
7.45 The Strypes Mayor Olumuyi's nephew is wrongly accused of assault, placing Bert in a difficult situation (T) (916591)
7.46 Space 1999 Alpha botanist Sherman is plagued by hallucinations on a seemingly uninhabited planet (T) (151404)



Reporter Kate Humble travels the World Wide Web (7.30pm)

7.30 CH4 WebWise Interactive travel show, designed to help people to use the Internet (355)
7.58 Tales from the Net (T) (172775)
8.00 Snooker: World Championship David Vines introduces this evening's session from the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, where the quarter-finals are under way. Commentary by Clive Everton (729713)
10.30 Party Election Broadcast By the Labour Party. With in-vision subtitles (340978)
10.35 Newswatch Round-up of the day's events (T) (783539)
11.18 Video Nation Shorts from the Balkans (T) (22426)
11.20 The Viewing Room New series. Kaye Adams chairs a discussion with eight television addicts (T) (911510)
11.55 Weather (504620)
12.00 Despatch One (50640)
12.30am BBC Learning Zone Open University: Changes in Rural Society Piedmont and Sicily (22331) 1.30 Venice and Antwerp: Forms of Religion (27331) 2.00 Schools: PSHE — Turning Points/Lifeskills A-Z (28223) 4.00 Languages: Major German 5.00 Business — Part Two (59363) 5.00 Business and Training: Web Wise — Communicating Online (367526) 5.45 Open University: The Three Estates (27222) 6.10 Angelica Kaufman, RA and the Choice of Painting (7795834) 6.35 The Colonial Encounter (569331)

7.30 Coronation Street (T) (881)

8.00 Airline Behind the scenes at Britannia Airways, the world's biggest charter airline, following the daily lives of staff at Manchester airport and profiling passengers, beginning with 18-year-old Lucy, who is jetting off to India in search of stardom (16) (T) (1442)
8.30 Cop Shop CID search for evidence to nail the brutal attacker of a naval worker, while Inspector Clive Ayliffe reluctantly considers early retirement. Andy and Serena, meanwhile, are devastated to learn they are not allowed to work together any more (7) (7249)
9.00 CH4 The Blonde Bombshell First of a two-part drama based on the life of Diana Dors (T) (2677862)
10.55 ITV Nightly News; Weather (T) (6431)
11.15 HTV News and Weather (T) (605442)
11.25 Flitz (T) (64920)
12.25am Football Extra (T) (9529447)
1.25 World Football (T) (5244850)
1.55 Circus of Horrors (1960) A plastic surgeon sets to work changing the faces of criminals working at his circus. Chiller, starring Donald Pleasence (301027)
2.30 CITV: The Blonde Bombshell First of a two-part drama based on the life of Diana Dors (T) (2677862)
3.00 Stories from the Web in Days (T) (16959) 3.15 The X Factor (T) (2628245) 3.30 Seven Days in May (T) (686184) 3.45 The Melton Affair (T) (7230272) 3.45 Computerom (T) (5235171) 3.55 Prime Hell 36 (T) (38437447)
4.00pm The Right of the Igneous (1984) 4.15 The Seven Crosses (1984) 4.30 Savage Mammoth (1972) 4.45 The Seven (T) (2120211) 4.55 The Melton Affair (T) (7230272) 4.55 Computerom (T) (5235171) 3.55 Prime Hell 36 (T) (38437447)
5.00pm-6.00pm Wales Today (T) (201)
5.30pm-6.00pm Wales Today (T) (201)
6.30pm Wales Today (T) (201)
1.55pm-2.00pm News (T) (272628)

6.30pm Wales Today (T) (201)

1.55pm-2.00pm News (T) (272628)

HTV WEST
5.30am HTV Morning News (41784)
6.00 GMTV (247336)
9.25 Trisha (T) (5282607)
10.30 This Morning (T) (47933775)
12.15pm HTV News (T) (798959)
12.55 Shortland Street (1375951)
1.30 Home and Away (T) (16786317)
1.55 The Jerry Springer Show Outrageous American talk show (T) (5644775)
2.40 Wheel of Fortune (T) (2633930)
3.10 ITV News Headlines (T) (5341289)
3.15 HTV News (T) (5340971)
3.20 CITV: Maisy (5330510) 3.25 Oggy and the Cockroaches (5320133) 3

**PROFILE 44**

Behind the scenes at Dixons

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

BUSINESS

MONDAY APRIL 26 1999

BOOMING? 46

Roger Bootle blows the roof off house prices



World awaits reforms to hold crises in check

By ANATOLE KALETSKY

MAJOR reforms of the global financial system, designed to contain future crises such as the ones that have hit Asia, Latin America and Russia, are due to be approved this week at meetings of the Group of Seven and the IMF.

Finance ministers and central bank governors gathering in Washington over the weekend indicated

that they are close to agreement on most of the key measures to strengthen the "global financial architecture" proposed in the wake of the Russian crisis by Gordon Brown, the Chancellor.

The reforms, due to be approved in principle this week but implemented only gradually from the autumn onwards, fall into six broad categories:

□ A new "contingent credit line" (or CCL) will be created to stop the

spread of financial contagion. Countries that submit their economic policies to prior approval by the IMF will be guaranteed large credit facilities with almost no strings attached and available immediately to protect themselves against attacks by international speculators. The CCL scheme will potentially be backed not only by the IMF's \$76 billion (£47 billion) of uncommitted resources and its \$46 billion of pre-

arranged credit lines, but also by the possibility of additional parallel lending from the treasuries and central banks of the G7.

□ The IMF will formally adopt a new attitude to economic management designed to create "sustainable exchange rate regimes". It will discourage developing countries from basing policies on fixed exchange rates. Countries will instead be encouraged to adopt float-

ing or adjustable exchange rates, except in the small number of cases, such as Hong Kong and Argentina, where governments are willing and able to adopt currency boards.

□ New codes of financial supervision and monetary management will be designed to improve surveillance over speculation by banks and hedge funds. Central banks in the G7 countries will also be expected to operate in a more transparent

manner — a proposal resisted by the European Central Bank.

□ Reforms will ensure that private sector lenders make bigger concessions if developing countries default. This may require changes in English and New York law.

□ New efforts will be made to protect the poorest people in developing countries from global financial crises. The IMF and World Bank will be told to redesign adjustment

programmes to give higher priority to social safety nets.

□ The poorest developing nations will be given additional relief from their unsustainable debt burdens.

While these principles have now been broadly agreed, Germany and Japan are still reported to be obstructing detailed agreement.

The programme will also disappoint advocates of granting complete debt relief to the poorest countries.

JOAN RUSSELL/GUZLIA

BT in £1.2bn deal to buy Japan stake

By RAYMOND SNOODY, MEDIA EDITOR

BRITISH TELECOM and American Telephone & Telegraph (AT&T), its worldwide partner, are to spend £1.2 billion to take a 30 per cent stake in Japan Telecom, a long-distance carrier.

The deal, announced yesterday, pushes ahead with the strategy of building a global network by taking significant minority stakes in foreign telephone companies.

Taking the stake in Japan Telecom, which BT believes is the third-largest telecoms player in the \$100 billion a year Japanese market, is a final recognition that the UK company is unlikely to be able to invest in the domestic business of NTT, Japan's dominant national operator.

Under the deal signed yesterday in Tokyo, BT and AT&T will each subscribe for 15 per cent of the shares in Japan Telecom which has built a fibre-optic network running along the routes of Japan Railways.

BT is putting up most of the money and will have an economic interest of 20 per cent in the venture compared with AT&T's 10 per cent. But the two companies will jointly manage their investment.

The shareholding levels

were set because the largest investor in the company is Japanese Railways East with 15.1 per cent. This status will be preserved.

BT is investing about £620 million in cash in the venture when AT&T, its partner in a \$10 billion (£6 billion) global joint co-operation, will put up about £130 million. The balance of the £1.2 billion investment will come in the form of BT and AT&T businesses in Japan which will be integrated with Japan Telecom. These include BT Communications Services.

Sir Peter Bonfield, BT's chief executive, said yesterday that, when BT entered the Japanese market in 1985, the aim was to become a strong force in the world's second-largest telecoms market after the US.

This deal will allow Japan Telecom to become the number one challenger in Japan," Sir Peter said.

According to BT, Japan Telecom, which so far has about 17 million customers as well as interests in mobile operators with six million subscribers, comes after NTT and KDD.

Others contend that Japan Telecom also lags behind IDC, in which Cable & Wireless has an interest. Yesterday BT was

adamant that its policy of seeking partnerships, backed up by minority stakes, around the world, was the right one even though other international players such as Cable & Wireless had been getting rid of their minority stakes. "We are very keen to have a spread of investments, then we can buy up and sell down. It gives us flexibility," said Andy Green, director of group strategy and mobility.

Yesterday's agreement, which should close by the autumn, means that BT has doubled its existing investment in Asia to \$2 billion. Under the deal 400 employees from both BT and AT&T will transfer from the Japanese companies of the Western telephone groups to Japan Telecom and both companies will have an

executive and non-executive director on the Japan Telecom board. Although Japan Telecom is a residential telephone operator, BT and AT&T's main interest in the venture will be the expansion of business with Japanese multinationals in Japan and in the coming third-generation mobile systems. BT executives said yesterday that future international investments would not necessarily be with AT&T, despite the global joint venture now awaiting final approval from US regulators.

In Crossflatts, finishing touches were being made to the arrangements for the special members' meeting. A marquee is being held this afternoon at the B&B's Yorkshire headquarters in Crossflatts, near Bingley.

If the members vote for conversion, it is likely that the B&B board will begin to press ahead with a flotation on the London Stock Exchange. However, a pro vote will also excite frenzied speculation about whether B&B will actually make it to the stock market as an independent entity. AXA and Prudential, the insurance groups, among others, may jump in to acquire the firm.

In Crossflatts, finishing touches were being made to the arrangements for the special members' meeting. A marquee, capable of accommodating 1,000 people, has been erected.

About 1.5 million — or 60 per cent — of the society's 2.5

million members have already voted on the issue. Some believe that 800,000 have been cast in favour of conversion.

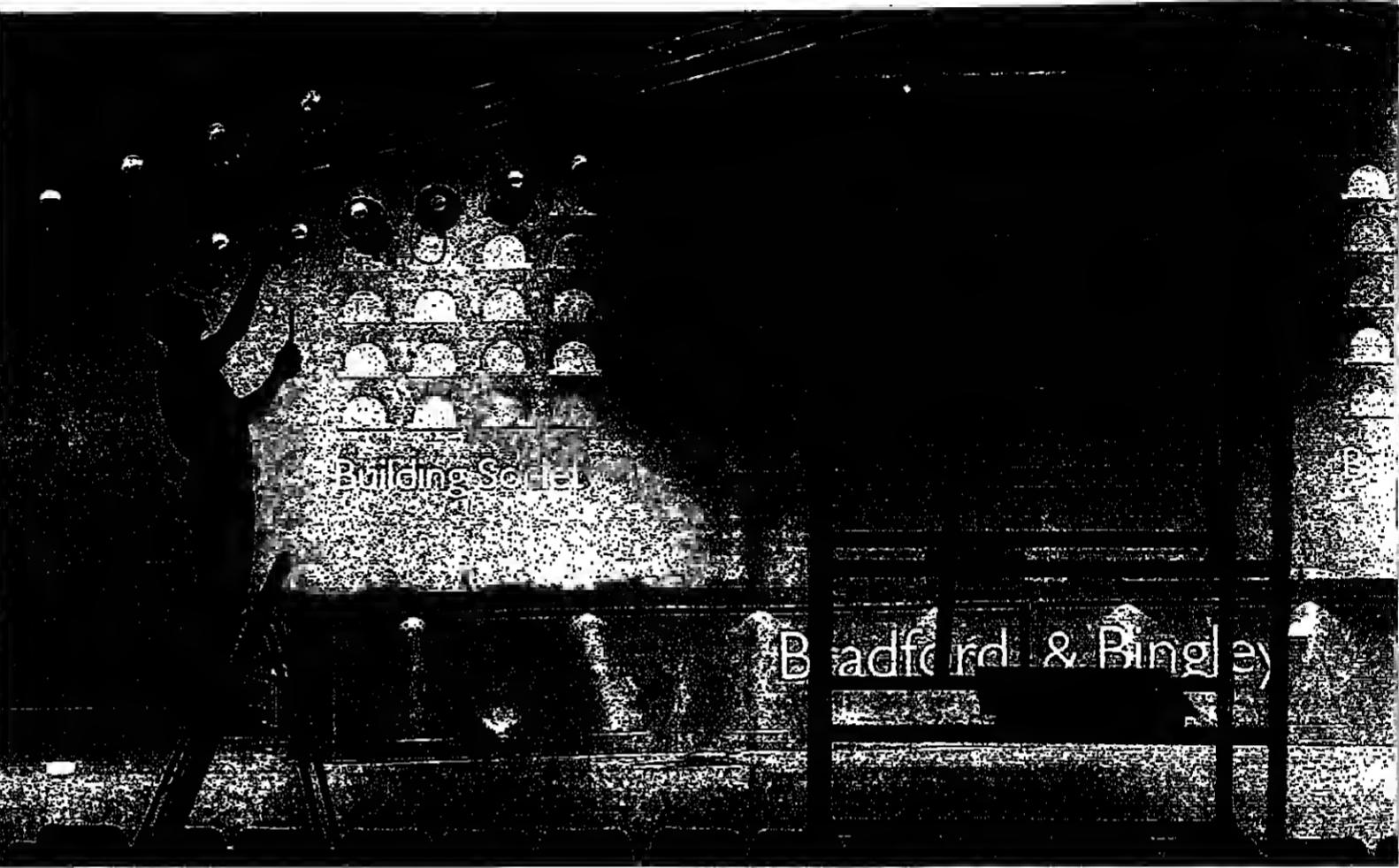
The result may be tight, but senior B&B personnel, who have been engaged in defending the society's mutual status, have conceded that the result could go against them, and in favour of the windfall-seeking carpetbaggers. Banking analysts also say there is a high likelihood that the society will convert.

However, cautious observers point out that confident, but ultimately mistaken, predictions were being made about a similar vote at the Nationwide Building Society last

year. In the event, the pro-mutualists won the day.

The B&B board, has maintained that members are better off with a mutual organisation. Such claims have been backed by high-profile figures such as Martin Bell, former war correspondent for the BBC and Independent MP for Tatton, and John Monks, General Secretary of the TUC.

On the other hand, members in favour of conversion say that the one-off benefit of a windfall, plus dividends from shares owned, would more than compensate for anything lost if the firm's savings and mortgage rates became less competitive.



Finishing touches are put to the marquee where a special members' meeting of the Bradford & Bingley Building Society meeting will be held today

B&B members prepare for windfall

By SUSAN EMMETT AND ROBERT COLE

TWO-AND-A-HALF million customers of the Bradford & Bingley Building Society can look forward to windfall payments of at least £800 to £1,000 as it becomes increasingly likely that the vote of the society's future will prompt the conversion of B&B into a bank.

Some believe that the windfalls could top £2,000, but the confirmed result of the vote will not be known until later today. A special members' meeting is being held this afternoon at the B&B's Yorkshire headquarters in Crossflatts, near Bingley.

If the members vote for conversion, it is likely that the B&B board will begin to press ahead with a flotation on the London Stock Exchange. However, a pro vote will also excite frenzied speculation about whether B&B will actually make it to the stock market as an independent entity. AXA and Prudential, the insurance groups, among others, may jump in to acquire the firm.

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Littlewoods to spread its bets

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

LITTLEWOODS is to split off its leisure ventures from its mail order and retail operations, heightening speculation that the pools and betting business could eventually be sold or floated on the stock market.

The divisions will be run by separate boards under a shake-up due to take effect on Saturday. Roger Withers, chairman of Bass Leisure South Africa, will be the non-executive chairman of the leisure operation.

Littlewoods dismissed anticipation of a sale or flotation of the business as speculation. The organisation is wholly owned by the Moores family, but the 30 shareholders in the family have given up day-to-day running of the group.

Splitting Littlewoods' core operations in two is the biggest move so far by its chairman, James Ross, the former head of Cable & Wireless.

Barry Gibson, the chief executive, who joined last September from BAA, said: "Little-



Ross: biggest move so far

PowerGen stations fetch £1.4bn

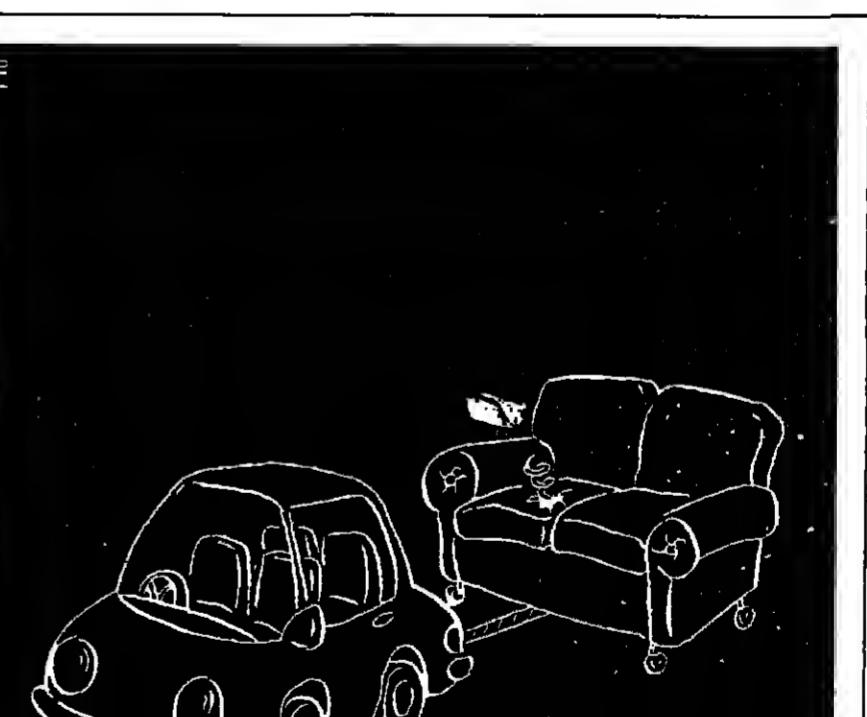
By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

MISSION ENERGY of the US has won the race for both of the power stations PowerGen has been forced to sell by the Government. An announcement will come today or tomorrow.

The company, which owns First Hydro, the Welsh hydro-electricity station that is vital for providing power at peak times, has paid £1.4 billion for the two stations — Ferrybridge in West Yorkshire and Fiddlers Ferry on Merseyside.

Mission, which is part of Edison International, beat off contenders including the US's NRG. The stations have been sold at a premium to the £1.1 billion they were expected to raise.

All those interested in buying the stations went through a government vetting process. A key consideration was whether the stations should go to separate buyers or as a pair. The Government was convinced that one buyer, if the right one, could provide greater competition than two.



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Record merger activity

By ROBERT COLE

THE volume of mergers and acquisition activity across Europe shot to a record in the first three months of the year. According to Thomson Financial Securities Data, the financial information provider, \$345 billion (£213 billion) worth of deals were struck in the quarter.

JP Morgan, the investment bank, jumped up the European adviser rankings. Helped by its efforts with Telecom Ita-

lia, JPM displaced Goldman Sachs as the adviser on most European deals, as measured by value. JPM commanded a 20 per cent market share in the first quarter, and worked on 76 deals.

In the latest period Morgan Stanley Dean Witter took second place and Warburg Dillon Read came third. Goldman, which slipped to sixth place in the rankings, leads the way globally.

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